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# Moderates and radicals condemn UN 'double standards'



FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
IN CAIRO

ANGER was mounting throughout the Arab world last night at what moderates and radicals condemned as United Nations double standards in acting toughly against Iraq but refusing to apply pressure to either Israel or Serbia.

The semi-official *Egyptian Gazette*, voice of the normally pro-Western government of President Mubarak, America's main Arab ally, attacked the UN's failure to stand up to Israel's refusal to take back the 415 Palestinian deportees, stranded in the Lebanese no man's land, or to tackle Serb atrocities against Bosnian Muslims. It was, the newspaper said, a recipe for "frustration and chaos".

"The vexed question is ringing for Arabs and Muslims everywhere," the newspaper

added. "Why should the world manifest such resolve in standing up to Saddam's misconduct while turning a blind eye to the mass rapes and the declared ethnic cleansing policy pursued by the Serbs for over nine months now?"

Similar bitterness against the West was voiced by many of the Islamic fundamentalist deportees who were dumped in the no man's land last month. United Nations resolution 799 demands their return, but Israel has repeatedly refused to comply and has expressed its hope that America will veto any sanctions.

"We are very frustrated when we see security council resolutions implemented on some sides, like Iraq, and not implemented on others," said

one of the alleged supporters of the Islamic extremist group Hamas, Fayez al-Khadour, 33. In the hours before the allied attack on Iraq, Hussein Abu Quatir, another deportee, complained: "The security council uses double standards. When it comes to Israel, the UN does not try to force it to comply like in other places."

Western diplomatic sources said that, just as during the Gulf war, attempts may be made to link the problems dealing with Iraq and the whole Palestinian question.

Moderate Arab leaders, including some of those who supported the Gulf war coalition against Iraq, were fearful that renewed violence against President Saddam Hussein could whip up support for Islamic fundamentalists, who

opposed Arab support for the Gulf war. Leaders of two of the prominent members of the 1990 coalition, Egypt and Syria, met in Damascus yesterday to discuss the repercussions of possible renewed conflict between Iraq and the West. Mr Mubarak and President Assad of Syria fear that fresh attacks against Saddam could weaken Iraq's strategic position as a bulwark against Islamic fundamentalism.

One Arab diplomat said that Egypt did not want to see Iraqi military power destroyed at a time when the Iranian government was reasserting its influence throughout the Middle East and into Africa and Central Asia. Mr Mubarak has recently accused Iran of plotting to subvert his administration. "It is a very embarrassing situation," the Cairo-based diplomat said. "On the one hand, Iraq is still violating

resolutions of the security council but on the other, many Arab countries do not want to see the destruction of more Iraqi capabilities because it will only favour Iran."

Even on the streets of Cairo there is vocal support for Iraq, which was conspicuously absent during the Gulf war. "Saddam is a great man, he is a strong man who is standing up for his people," said a middle-aged Cairo taxi driver yesterday. Asked for his opinion of Mr Mubarak, he spat noisily out of his window.

The question being asked is whether vocal support for the Iraqi leader will be manifested in street protests and sympathetic terrorist violence now that the coalition has attacked Saddam. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are the strongest Arab backers of renewed military strikes against Iraq. Even in the conservative Gulf, however,

voices of doubt have been raised about Western policy. Bahrain's *Akhbar al-Khalij* newspaper asked why it was that UN resolutions were always implemented against Iraq, while countless others against Serb crimes in Bosnia and about Israel and Palestine remained mere words on paper.

Saddam remains a hero among Palestinians and demonstrations in his support were expected in Palestinian camps even in countries such as Jordan, whose government has recently distanced itself from its Gulf war sympathies for him. One Arab official said before yesterday's attack: "There is a real danger that his pan-Arab stature will be greatly boosted if the bombs start to fall."

Saddam's press spokesman, Abduljabbar Muhsein, declared yesterday that the Iraqi leader and his people

did not fear "33 states and 28 armies", a reference to the old multinational alliance, now effectively reduced to America, Britain and France. "Saddam will remain," he asserted. "Kuwait will remain in Iraq's shadow."

Jerusalem: Israel offered fresh humanitarian concessions to the Palestinian deportees on the mountainside at Marj az-Zahour yesterday, but the move was not expected to satisfy UN demands that the exiled men be repatriated (Richard Beeston writes).

Shimon Peres, the foreign minister, who was in Paris to sign a convention banning chemical weapons, told Lawrence Eagleburger, the American Secretary of State, and Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, that Israel is prepared to make a unilateral gesture to ease the conditions of the men.

## Taunts of defiant Saddam provoked Bush into action

■ A president usually leaves the Oval Office quietly. But George Bush has bequeathed a host of military operations to Bill Clinton

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush ensured yesterday that his one-term presidency will end with a bang, not a whimper.

Not satisfied with dispatching a big military task force to Somalia and signing the largest nuclear arms reduction treaty ever, he has now completed an extraordinary transition period by ordering new military strikes, just one week before Bill Clinton's inauguration, against his old enemy, President Saddam Hussein.

Transitions were not meant to be like this. Presidents defeated in the polls usually go quietly. The only notable exception in recent times was Jimmy Carter, whose final days in 1981 turned into a frantic race to free 50 US hostages in Iran.

Before the strikes began Mr Bush had virtually finished packing up his belongings from the Oval Office, yesterday morning, in one of those customary last-minute White House ceremonies that are performed by outgoing presidents.

It would be hard not to believe that Mr Bush took some personal satisfaction from last night's strikes. His long feud with Saddam had become intensely personal,

and in part at least Saddam's recent defiance appeared designed to taunt him.

This resort to military action was also highly poignant, coming as it did almost two years to the day after the start of the Gulf war. The marshalling of a multinational coalition for Operation Desert Storm and the subsequent military victory was undoubtedly the Bush administration's finest hour, the accomplishment on which Mr Bush had

been expected to coast to a comfortable re-election.

But Saddam's subsequent survival in power, defying the US and the UN at every turn, and the persistent drip-drip of disclosures of the Bush administration's past support for him, almost completely negated the electoral gains Mr Bush had counted on, and he had little else in the way of achievement to offer an electorate that was soured by an economic recession.

Saddam was truly the scourge of the Bush administration, and now Mr Bush is bequeathing him — maybe humbled, maybe not — to Mr

Clinton. In recent days the Clinton camp has used every phrase in the book to underscore the president-elect's determination to ensure Saddam's compliance with UN resolutions, but there are some signs that he might be willing to go further still, perhaps by giving more concrete support to Iraqi opposition groups.

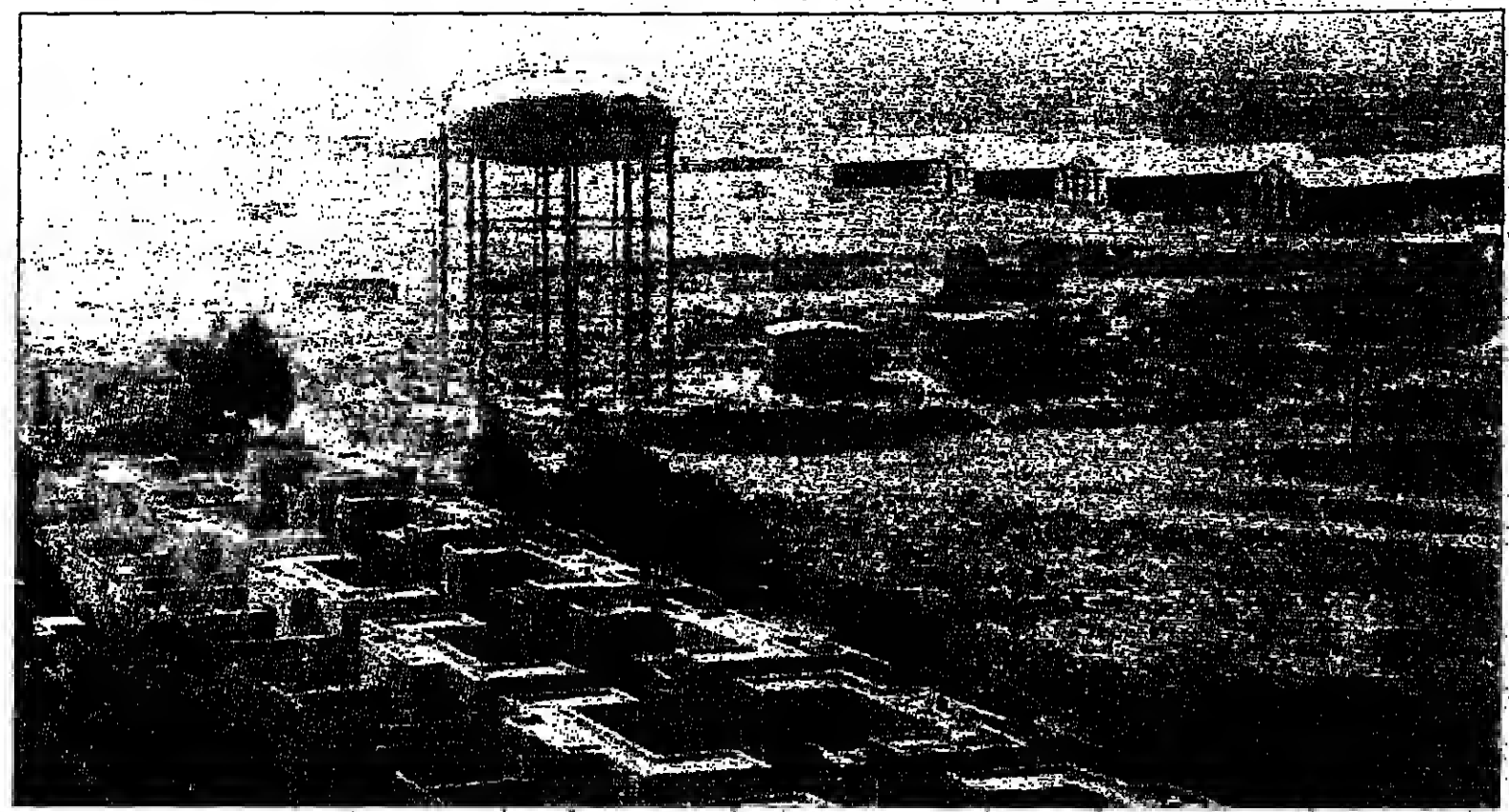
"It's striking how they are prepared to consider options that will indicate to Saddam that he can't get away scot-free," said one source familiar with Mr Clinton's thinking. At his Senate confirmation hearings yesterday, Warren Christopher, Mr Clinton's choice of Secretary of State, said the incoming administration stood "shoulder-to-shoulder" with Mr Bush. "I say with great determination that Saddam Hussein should not doubt for a second that we, the incoming administration, will meet the test," he said. "President Clinton will insist on unconditional compliance with UN resolution."

Mr Christopher has previous experience of handling such crises during presidential transition. In 1981 it was he, as deputy Secretary of State, who was negotiating the hostages release on President

Carter's behalf, winning his own Medal of Freedom for his efforts. In the event the hostages were released within hours of Mr Reagan taking the oath of office.

There was some speculation yesterday that Mr Clinton's inauguration could be scaled down if the US was still engaged next Wednesday in open hostilities with Iraq. Harry Thomason, the television producer and Mr Clinton's friend who is helping organise the five days of festivities beginning this weekend, acknowledged the possibility, but said he believed: "It would still be appropriate to go with some version of the programme."

The strike should meanwhile ensure that Mr Bush, ever mindful of his place in history, will leave office with his approval ratings surging. Military action of any sort traditionally boosts the incumbent's popularity. After the Gulf war, Mr Bush touched a record 90 per cent. In the election two months ago he secured just 38 per cent. Even before last night's event, he



Lines in the sand: Ummi Qasr, the town which was Iraqi before the Gulf war but was allocated to Kuwait after the conflict, when the United Nations redrew the border last November. In the distance are barracks and sheds which were part of an Iraqi naval base

had risen again to a respectable 50 per cent. □ Reagan honoured: In one of the final ceremonies of his own term in office, President Bush bestowed the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Ronald Reagan, telling his predecessor: "Millions thank God today that you were in the White House." He called him a "real American hero".

As Mr Reagan's wife and daughter, Maureen, watched, Mr Bush draped the medal on a royal blue ribbon around the neck of the 40th president. "From time to time I have been called a great communicator," said Mr Reagan, who will be 82 next month. "I'll tell you, it's not an easy thing to communicate what I feel right now. Receiving the Medal of Freedom is a great honour."

The former president became the 302d recipient of the nation's highest civilian honour, and the 38th of Mr Bush's tenure in the White House. The citation accompanying the medal said Mr Reagan "symbolises all that is best in America. As president, he embodied the American spirit around the world, he burnished America's lamp of liberty."

President Kennedy created

the medal in 1963 by executive order, but did not live to choose any recipients. A White House description of the honour says it is awarded by the president "to those persons who he deems have made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavours".

Mr Bush had presented the medal previously to 37 others who became famous in their fields. They range from Baroness Thatcher to the racing car driver Richard Petty, violinist Isaac Stern and the *Tonight Show* host, Johnny Carson.

"Ronald Reagan didn't just make the world believe in America, he made Americans believe in themselves," President Bush declared. "Few people believed more in liberty's inevitable triumph than Ronald Reagan. None was more a prophet in his time," he added.

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Parting shots: President Bush, who hands over to Bill Clinton next week, has had an extraordinary transition period ordering new military strikes



Parting shots: President Bush, who hands over to Bill Clinton next week, has had an extraordinary transition period ordering new military strikes

## Allied warplanes hit missiles sites

Continued from page 1  
inal Bush seems to be bracing himself for a fresh aggression against Iraq. The station said that Iraq had declared that it would "respond with every available means in defence of its independence".

Later, the state television's main evening news programme read a telegram from the defence minister, Ali Hassan al-Majied, to Saddam to mark Sunday's second anniversary of the start of the Gulf war. "The treacherous people have returned after less than two years to commit aggression against Iraq, to undermine what has been reconstructed by the brave Mujahidin. Your sons and soldiers stand like towering mountains in the face of the bad people and traitors, defending the country and offering their souls as a sacrifice for Iraqi soil, skies and water."

To the south, Kuwaitis pronounced strong support for the strike, with one leading newspaper columnist saying that Bush's decision had "burst the abyss" of the Baghdad government.

With sanctions beginning to bite and some prices in Baghdad 40 times what they were before the invasion of Kuwait, Saddam has been under pressure from members of his inner circle to make a bold gesture to reas-

sert his control and image in the approach to the anniversary weekend. The defence minister has vowed during a tour of army bases in the south that there would be no retreat from Iraq's determination to free itself from what it sees as humiliating Western restrictions. And yesterday, Saddam's press spokesman Abduljabbar Muhsein wrote in the government newspaper *al-Furqan* that Kuwait would return to Iraq in defiance of the security council and America. He described the entire as an integral part of Iraq.

In New York, however, Iraq capitulated on its two principal challenges to the UN. Its ambassador, Nazir Hamdoun said he had told the security council president that Iraq would stop moving property from Ummi Qasr in the demilitarised zone until "resolving the problems that are outstanding with the UN (UN monitoring mission) people over there".

He added that Iraq would approve the flight requests from the special commission planes, but cautioned that the UN would be responsible for their security in the event of any allied attack. At about the same time, the American ambassador met the security council president to notify the council of the planned allied military action.

IRAQ's belligerent claim yesterday that it would regain Kuwait was the latest in a long series of demands over the fiercely disputed border between the two oil-rich states. Even critics of President Saddam Hussein acknowledge that his repeated assertions to sovereignty over Kuwait are backed by many of the Iraqi people and repeat demands that have been pursued over the past 50 years by monarchies and republics alike.

Much of the trouble has arisen because border demarcation in the featureless desert area hinges on the whereabouts of a 1923 border post described as being "just south of Safwan", and of a number of date palms deliberately planted by Iraq in the 1940s to confuse the map makers.

With the second anniversary of Baghdad's defeat at the weekend, Saddam's press secretary, Abduljabbar Muhsein, said yesterday: "Kuwait shall return to Iraq in defiance of the security council and America." The official added: "President Bush does know that Kuwait is part of Iraq. This is an historic fact and the international treaties and world conspiracies cannot change the facts of history forever." His remarks appeared

## After 50 years, border claim still feeds patriotic passions

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

designed to stoke up tension further at a time when renewed allied attacks were regarded by most of the Arab world as inevitable. They followed the line rigorously pursued by Baghdad since 1938 on two different levels: either that Kuwait should be administered as part of Iraqi territory, or that the frontier between Kuwait and Iraq should be modified to allow Iraq greater access to the waters of the Gulf.

In fact, the five-member border commission established after the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire found in favour of Kuwait on most points, insisting that the *de facto* boundary be shifted northwards by several hundred yards.

The move, flatly rejected by the Baghdad regime and not even countenanced by those exiled Iraqi opposition groups anxious to topple Saddam, was seen as sowing the seeds of a future war whose roots will continue to flourish, whatever the outcome of this week's immediate crisis.

A number of contested oil wells were ordered to be returned to Kuwait, as was the Iraqi-run naval port at Ummi Qasr, where Iraqi demolition

teams were again operating illegally yesterday for the fourth day in a row.

Five Iraqi police posts are also due to be shifted northwards by the end of this week, another deadline that Baghdad is reluctant to keep, and more than 250 Iraqi farmers who for years have been tilling soil now ruled as Kuwaiti also have to move north against their will.

Last October members of the anti-Saddam opposition resolved at their historic conference held in the Kurdish-dominated north of Iraq to request Kuwait to open its borders to allow men and material to pass to assist the Shia Muslims in southern Iraq. But the opposition, which has Western backing, could not bring itself to accept Kuwaiti conditions — solemn recognition not only of Kuwait, but of the extended boundaries as guaranteed by the UN Security Council last August. Baghdad's first claim to the whole of Kuwait, frequently described by Saddam as Iraq's 19th province and depicted as such in thousands of Baghdad-printed maps, was made in 1938 by the then foreign minister, Tawfiq al-Suwaidi. It was repeated in 1961 when Kuwait announced its independence from Britain.

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# Allies fear Saddam will take revenge on minority groups

■ The Iraqi dictator's forces are still no match for the coalition, but, like the Shias and Kurds, Westerners could become his targets

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE confident boast by President Saddam Hussein that he will retaliate if attacked by US-led coalition forces has forced Western governments to assess the options available to the Iraqi leader.

The fear is that he will take his revenge on either the Kurds in the north or the Shias in the south, the two minority communities the coalition forces have vowed to protect from Iraqi attacks.

The greatest concern is in the north where Saddam has five divisions equipped with the best of the armour that survived the Gulf war. The troops have a mixture of old Soviet T54 and T55 tanks, but also the more modern T72. They also have towed artillery and multiple rocket launchers.

The Kurds have limited weapons supplies, including some T54s and T55s, a handful of Iranian light artillery pieces, old multiple rocket launchers and mortars.

Although Saddam's military might was drastically reduced by the coalition, he has restructured his forces, converting his army into 30 divisions.

Weapons destroyed or captured during the war included about 3,000 tanks, 1,860 armoured vehicles and 2,140 artillery pieces. Today, Iraqi forces have about 2,000 tanks and 2,000 artillery pieces, twice the amount held by the British Army.

Iraq also has between 300 and 350 combat aircraft, although many of them are in poor order. During the Gulf war, Iraq lost 35 aircraft in air-to-air combat, more than 100 destroyed on the ground, and 112 that were flown to Iran where they have stayed. Aircraft that survived include MiG21s, MiG23s, MiG25s, MiG29s and Mirage F1s.

Under the United Nations resolution, all Iraq's, Soviet ballistic missiles should have been destroyed, either by Iraq itself or by UN weapons

inspectors. But there are suspicions that the Iraqis have succeeded in hiding some Scuds. However, if these weapons were brought out from their hiding places, they would run the risk of being spotted by American reconnaissance satellites.

In terms of military manpower, Iraq has a larger force than the combined coalition forces based in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf. During the Gulf war, the coalition nearly matched the Iraqis man for man. However, the coalition still retains a marked superiority in weapons, communica-

tions and reconnaissance technology.

The 150-200 allied aircraft, most of them American, far outclass the Iraqi air force and present the most potent threat to Saddam, along with the American carrier battle group, led by the *Kitty Hawk*, which is patrolling in the north of the Gulf. Three warships in the group are armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles.

The Iraqi army consists of about 350,000 men, down from a million men at arms at the start of the Gulf war. The Americans have a total of 18,500 military personnel in the region, about 1,300 army, 4,300 air force and 12,450 navy. There are no US marines, but a 200-man joint task force headquarters is based in Saudi Arabia.

Since it is unlikely that Saddam would contemplate any attack on American forces in Kuwait or Saudi Arabia, his options for immediate revenge would focus on shooting down coalition aircraft sent to bomb Iraqi targets. There are also concerns that he might take Western hostages, as well as attack the Kurds or Shias. Since Saddam's threats of launching terrorist operations in the West during the Gulf

war came to nothing, it seems unlikely that he would pursue this course of action.

Saddam has rebuilt most of Iraq's air defence network. This has been a priority for the Iraqi leader. There are also still huge stocks of anti-aircraft artillery which are placed around Iraq's 30 to 40 air bases.

During the Gulf war, many of the hardened aircraft shelters were targeted by coalition bombers using laser-guided weapons. However, it is known that a programme is underway to rebuild these shelters.

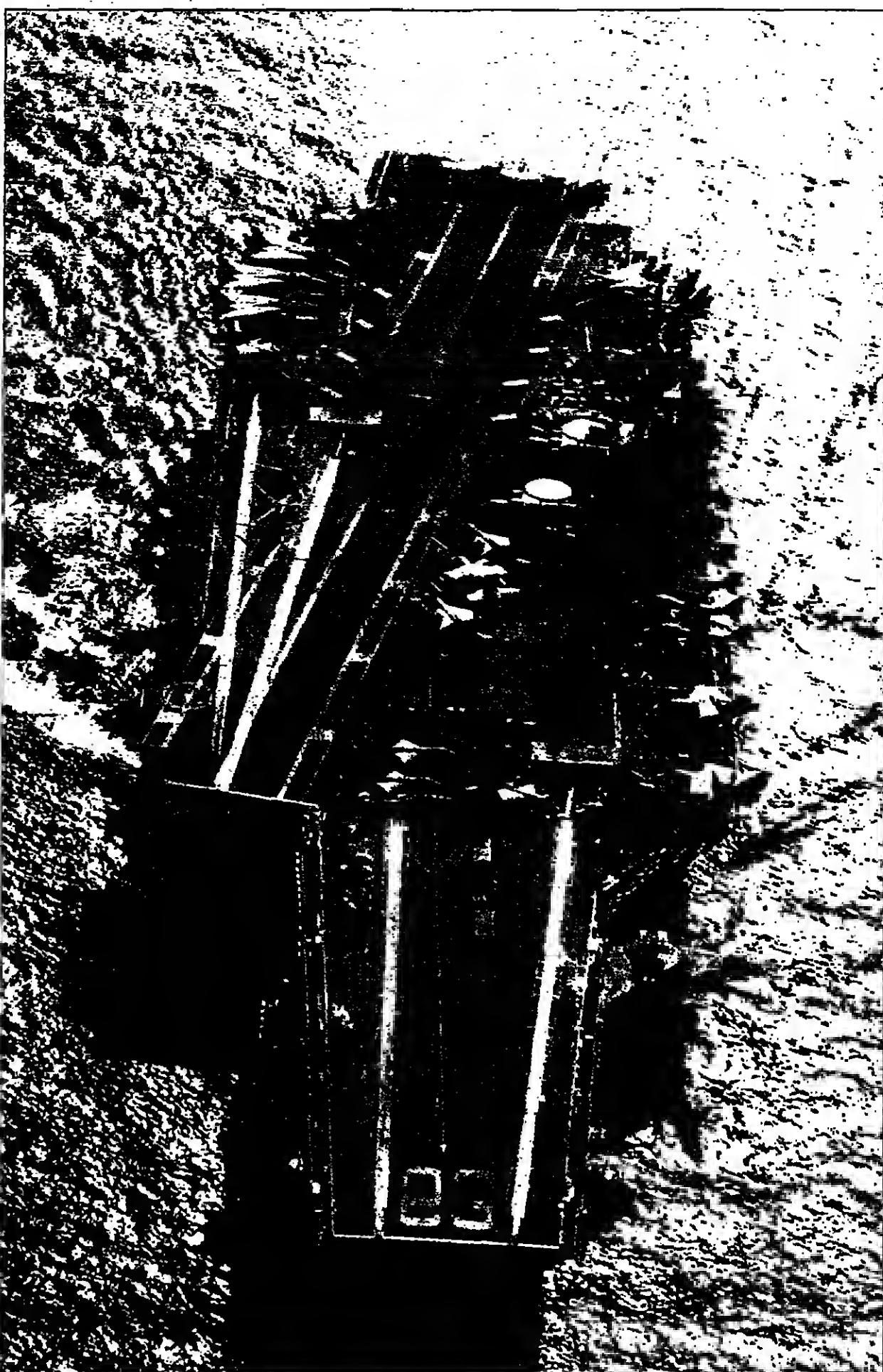
In the last few months, Iraqi aircraft have been engaged in training exercises aimed at learning lessons from the Gulf war. The Iraqi air force played a limited role in the war, taking on the coalition fighters only at the beginning of the allied air campaign.

Iraqi pilots are recognised in the West to be competent, especially those flying the latest Soviet MiG29s. However, Saddam decided against the risk of losing his best aircraft and ordered them to fly to safety in Iran. The planes were not returned as he had hoped.

Saddam has also created a new close protection security force of between 10,000 and 12,000 soldiers to guard him in Baghdad. They are his most devoted troops, entrusted with his safety.

Paris: France confirmed last night that its pilots were taking part in the attack on Iraqi surface-to-air missile sites south of the 32nd parallel. Speaking on Europe 1 radio, Pierre Joxe, the defence minister, said that the French air force had been poised for an offensive for several weeks and President Mitterrand had approved the mission (See Mac Carthain writes).

M Joxe said that the presence of ground-to-air missiles represented a threat to French, British and American airmen and had to be destroyed.



Battle station: the USS *Kitty Hawk*, which leads the American carrier battle group, steaming through the northern Gulf earlier this week. Three of its accompanying warships are armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles

## Arms deal offered to Arabs by Peres

FROM REUTERS IN PARIS

SHIMON PERES, the Israeli foreign minister, yesterday suggested to Arab states that the Middle East should be freed of arms of mass destruction.

"In the spirit of global pursuit of general and complete disarmament... Israel suggests to all the countries of the region to construct a mutually verifiable zone, free of surface-to-surface missiles and of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons," he told an international conference on chemical weapons at the UN headquarters. Representatives of more than 115 nations had gathered to sign a treaty banning the manufacture, stockpiling or use of chemical weapons.

Mr Peres put forward the idea of a Middle East with a common market and collective security. "No nation in the region will enjoy genuine security unless all nations feel secure," he said.

In order to establish regional security, he said, it was

### ISRAEL

necessary to curtail the arms race and prevent the proliferation of destabilising weapons; build and nurture mutual confidence between states; diminish the levels of suspicion, hostility and confrontation; reduce the incentives and capabilities for launching surprise attacks; ensure compliance with arms control accords; and install mutual challenge inspections once peace has been established.

He said that arms control arrangements should be agreed and include all the states of the region. "Priority in this process ought to be assigned to systems whose destabilising potential and effects have been proven through their use in wars and have inflicted mass casualties," he said.

"I call upon our Arab neighbours to establish a broad arms control dialogue with us, and I call upon all parties to sign the chemical warfare convention and build a new Middle East free of the horrors of war," Mr Peres said.

## Diplomats concede aid efforts by UN have failed to thwart Baghdad

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ANKARA

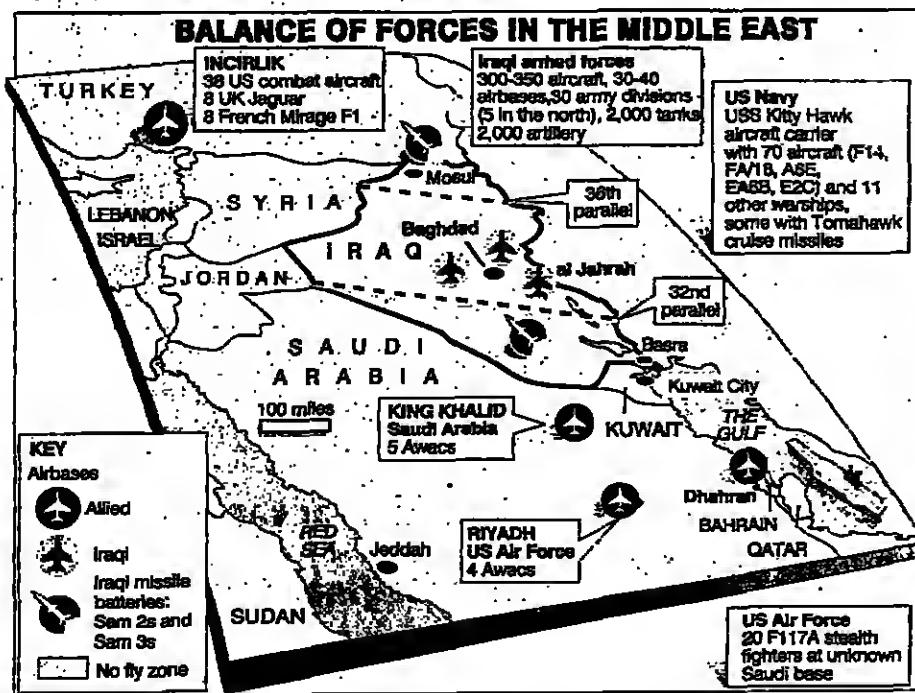
IF NOT too little and months too late, the aid effort organised by the United Nations has failed the Kurds in northern Iraq this winter in important ways, Western diplomats and UN officials believe. The Kurds have been left vulnerable not just to the Iraqi divisions south of Arbil and surface-to-air missiles along the 36th parallel, but to a network of government agents fomenting discontent.

Economic sanctions operating against Iraq have put paid to Kurdish efforts to restore northern industries. Agriculture's revival has been thwarted by the omission of diesel oil from a memorandum of understanding between the UN and Baghdad. Although farmers have been given the seed, many are unable to get it into the ground by tractor.

Although food is in short supply, cold is the greatest problem. Paraffin for villages and towns cut off from electricity has become a luxury few can afford. In such circumstances, it takes little money from Baghdad to reactivate a network of informers and saboteurs. Bombs in centres like Arbil have become more frequent. The murder of an Australian aid worker has halted distribution in the east of Iraqi Kurdistan where help is needed most.

Few among the Western diplomats in Ankara who monitor the situation have any doubt that Baghdad's intention is to re-enter the north. By offering double the market rate, Baghdad has managed to buy up much of last spring's harvest.

"The problem is not the memorandum of understanding, but Saddam Hussein," said one Western envoy. Few believe the UN can escape all blame. An internal UN memorandum obtained by *The Times* criticises the organisation's performance in the initial Kurdish crisis in 1991. It describes an effort constantly tripping over its own lack of co-ordination, without clear accountability.



## Meacher urges use of military force to protect north's lifeline

By JAMES LANDALE

MICHAEL Meacher, the shadow minister for overseas development, called yesterday for military force to protect the Kurds in northern Iraq. He said that if the United Nations was ready to use military action to enforce the no-fly zones in Iraq, "then how much more should the UN be ready to issue an ultimatum and to enforce it to secure the lifeline for 3,500,000 Kurdish people". He added: "The language of force is the only one which will make Saddam comply."

Mr Meacher, just back from a nine-day visit to the Kurdish area of Iraq, said that the Kurds faced a "double blockade" from President Saddam Hussein and from the UN sanctions imposed after the Gulf war. He called for the UN trade embargo to be lifted "rather than leave the Kurds dangling at the end of a precarious UN aid line".

He said that the Iraqi army should be forced to withdraw south and west of the road

between Turkey and Arbil, the Kurdish capital, to prevent further attacks on the UN supply line. Twenty such attacks have occurred recently. Mr Meacher said the allied powers should make it clear that the provision of air cover would continue indefinitely and called for the UN to lower its no-fly zone from the 36th to the 34th parallel so that it would cover the whole of the Kurdish area.

He said: "The situation in northern Iraq is one of catastrophe. There is virtually no food. People are living on bread, water and tea. Those who are ill are at risk because there is no heating." Each family has been allocated just 100 litres of paraffin — enough for three weeks — for the whole winter, while temperatures fall to -20C. Mr Meacher predicted tens of thousands of Kurdish deaths this winter.

About 4,500 of the 5,000 villages in Kurdistan have been destroyed by Saddam,

creating half a million refugees. Mr Meacher said that shelter was scarce, and that in one town, families were living in former secret police cells. He said mothers were leaving their babies in mosques overnight because they have no food to give them.

□ Ankara: Kurdish guerrillas in northern Iraq have been placed on "maximum alert" along their front facing Iraqi troops after Baghdad sent reinforcements into the area to guard anti-aircraft weapons, a Kurdish source said.

The source, contacted in Arbil, said that the anti-aircraft missiles and troop reinforcements were in the region of Mosul, within the no-fly zone imposed by the allies after the Gulf war. The Kurdish authorities called the alert in response to "an increase in tension" in northern Iraq following the stand-off between Baghdad and the American administration over Iraqi missiles, the source said.

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Espionage expert says few had access to equipment necessary to monitor conversations

# MI5 ignores claim that it bugged royal telephones

By CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT AND STEWART TENDLER

AS SPECULATION intensified yesterday about who had the resources and the motive to make tapes of royal conversations, MI5 officials tried to shrug off accusations that their agents were responsible. Security sources last night indicated that they did not feel the allegations were of sufficient substance to warrant a response.

The debate centres on three tapes, all made around December 1989, the most sensational allegedly of a mobile telephone conversation between the Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles.

Lord Rees-Mogg, who, in an article in *The Times* on Monday originally accused the security service of making the recordings, said that while he had no evidence that its agents were responsible, he remained convinced that the tapes were the result of systematic surveillance. "All those tapes were made in the space of one month. The most likely explanation is that MI5 did it to protect the royal family at a time of danger from the IRA. I don't think there was any sense of wrong-doing but once they were made, from that point on there was a danger of a leak," he said.

One theory is that, once taped, the conversations were rebroadcast in the hope that amateur electronic eavesdroppers would pick them up. Another is that there was a concerted campaign by a new breed of electronic paparazzi. They sought to take advantage of a period three years ago when mobile telephones proliferated but the dangers of eavesdropping were not fully realised.

The only formal links between the intelligence community and the royal family are the threat assessments prepared by MI6, responsible for overseas operations when royals travel abroad. Few doubt that the internal services would take an interest in "inappropriate" activities by

members of the family that came to their attention.

The first appearance of the tape of an alleged conversation between the Prince of Wales and Mrs Parker Bowles was reported in the *Daily Mirror* last November. However, last week a Manchester-based freelance journalist is understood to have contacted newspapers and magazines around the world with the offer of a transcript and a copy of the original tape. His asking price to a number of Fleet Street newspapers was £50,000. It is understood that none took up his offer.

Hugo Cornwall, an expert on industrial espionage, said yesterday that it was possible to use a scanner and equipment which could monitor one mobile telephone number to pick up calls, but the necessary devices were not generally available.

Models made abroad cost about £16,000 each and would be used by radio engineers, networks checking the operation of mobile telephones and government agencies such as GCHQ. Mr Cornwall said the equipment could be operated only by skilled technicians. It could be used to discover the electronic serial number which identified individual telephones. Once the serial number was set the equipment could pick up calls.

Scanmasters Products, based in Portland, Dorset, is developing equipment that could be used to monitor a particular mobile telephone. The company said yesterday that development had almost finished on its product and that it had been demonstrated to interested groups such as BT, but it was not yet fully operational. There had been no sales and the equipment would have to be used by trained engineers with access to the codes identifying the telephone.

Mr Cornwall said it was also possible, once a serial number

had been identified, to programme another telephone with the same number. Each time the original telephone was used, the calls could be monitored on the second set. The system had been used fraudulently to make calls free of charge and changes were introduced so that two telephones operating with the same number would be spotted.

It would also be possible to monitor calls by tapping the lines through the network companies. That would require a warrant from the home secretary of the day.

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Crossed lines: both the Princess of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles appear to have fallen foul of electronic surveillance

## Press to face new law on privacy

Continued from page 1  
abuses by the press. Compensation would be paid as in libel cases.

There would be a public interest defence that would allow newspapers to claim that disclosures about prominent public figures were justified. Ministers make plain, however, that such a defence would be much more difficult to use in the case of ordinary members of the public.

The new proposals were considered by a special and unheralded meeting of ministers chaired by the prime minister yesterday, and will go to the cabinet today.



Sir David: tribunal will be rejected

The meeting was called to speed publication of the Calcutt report to disentangle it from the furor over the royal family's relations with the press. This continued yesterday with claims — dismissed by Downing Street as nonsensical — that the security services had bugged royal telephone calls, and the publication in Australia of a transcript of an intimate conversation allegedly between Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles.

The cabinet is today expected to reject the Calcutt report's central recommendation for a press complaints tribunal headed by a judge and with powers to levy big fines. Yesterday's two-hour meeting was said to have reached unanimous agreement on that and other elements of the government's approach.

Ministers make plain that the new criminal laws will apply not only to the media but also to private detectives and commercial rivals who

use improper eavesdropping techniques.

Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, gave an indication of the new laws when he said yesterday: "I do not know anybody who is not in favour of a free press or who is not in favour of a disrespectful press. But there is such a thing as privacy. The only people who appear to be controlled when it comes to telephone tapping are the security services."

"If the people who act as spies on behalf of the country wish to tap a telephone, we have made it clear they have to get my permission. I only give permission on extremely compelling grounds on matters of national security. What they can and cannot do is strictly controlled."

"As far as I can see, private detectives, newspapers, commercial rivals involved in take-over bids, are not involved in any such restraint. I think this is a serious issue."

He declined to discuss the Mrs Parker Bowles revelations, saying merely: "They will feed the debate. I cannot comment on these tapes because I do not know if they are authentic."

The disclosures that the princess, and to a much lesser extent friends of the prince, manipulated the media to give differing versions of their marriage breakdown, have diminished the government's appetite for statutory control of the press.

Bob Cameron, managing editor of the magazine *New Idea*, which published the "Camillagate tapes" yesterday said that publication of an intimate telephone conversation, said to be between the Prince of Wales and Mrs Parker Bowles, was a legitimate journalistic exercise.

Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of the News Corporation, whose subsidiary *News International* publishes *The Sun* and *The Times*, said he had no knowledge of any negotiations to buy the tape last night. News Corporation is a minority (45 per cent) shareholder in *Pacific Magazines*, owners of *New Idea*.

Mr Murdoch emphasised that any suggestion of "collusion or conspiracy" between companies in which he has interests was "totally without foundation".



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BT SPECIALS



# Critics put Cruft's in the doghouse



Paws for thought: Benjamin John Smith with Weimaraner at Cruft's when it was staged at Earls Court. The show has been criticised for losing its excitement

KATE ALDERSON

Cruft's dog show, the most prestigious event in the dog world, may have weathered the recession with the number of entrants up on last year, but *Dogs Today*, the leading dog magazine, said yesterday the show had "lost its excitement"

and had slipped into being "just another dog show". Cruft's returns for its 102nd show today with 20,000 dogs entered, up 54 from last year. More than 60,000 visitors are expected to attend the four-day event, organised by the Kennel Club, which will decide which dog is the supreme

champion of Britain. Beverly Cuddy, the editor of *Dogs Today*, said the magazine would not attend this year. "The event is just getting bigger and bigger and you would have to be a really serious dog enthusiast to spend four days at the show in Birmingham. The venue is

not as special as Earls Court, where it used to be held. It's lost its exciting edge." However, proud owners will display their prized pedigrees in one of 163 classes, delighted that their canine companion is among the top 0.2 per cent of Britain's 7.3 million dogs, which amounts to one

dog for every eight humans in Britain. Every year, owners say that it is not winning that counts, but taking part. However, few would balk at the glory of winning a prize at Cruft's, which is relayed to millions of viewers by BBC Television, and the prestige of becoming a

member of the Cruft's "Roll of Honour". A new event at Cruft's is the auction of pet-friendly number plates on Saturday by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre. Prices start at £1,000 and the proceeds of K9 PUP will go to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

## DPP calls for files on Ulster inquest

The Director of Public Prosecutions in Northern Ireland has asked police for a report on evidence given at an inquest into the killing of an IRA man by undercover soldiers. The jury ruled on Tuesday that Seamus McElwaine, 25, had not been given the chance to surrender before being shot.

The IRA's political wing, Sinn Féin, wants the four soldiers involved in the shooting in a co. Fermanagh field near the Irish border in April 1986 to be charged with murder. The DPP has already decided against prosecutions. But the inquest findings could open the way for action by McElwaine's relatives.

The family said yesterday that they were "touched and heartened by the courage and honesty of the good people who made up that jury and who delivered their findings despite all efforts of the system to constrain and restrict them". But Sammy Wilson, a prominent member of the Democratic Unionist party, said the jury had handed the IRA a propaganda weapon and asked what warning it had intended to give before it exploded the 800lb bomb found near the scene of the shooting.

## Guppy alleges frame-up

Darius Guppy told a court yesterday that he was innocent of a £1.8 million gems fraud and had been framed. The Old Etonian, who denies insurance fraud, claimed that police officers had manipulated witnesses to orchestrate a case against him. In exchanges with James Curtis, for the prosecution, Mr Guppy, 28, best man at Earl Spencer's wedding in 1989, also told Southwark Crown Court that people he had once trusted had persistently lied about him. Alleged to have staged a mock gem robbery in New York in March 1990, he said he had been held up at gunpoint. Mr Guppy, of Ladbrooke Grove, west London, and his co-defendant Benedict Marsh, of Southwark, south London, each deny one charge of conspiracy to defraud, one of conspiracy to steal and two of conspiracy to commit false accounting. The trial continues today.

## War bunker to open

The underground bunker beneath the Liverpool office block from which the Battle of the Atlantic was directed is to open on April 3 as a permanent memorial. Dr James Fox, project director, said the bunker, shielded by concrete and tungsten walls and ceiling 3ft thick, was probably the most secure building in the land. It controlled 12 million square miles of ocean and the destruction of the battle ship *Bismarck* was planned there. The bunker's only casualty was a Wren who fainted and fell from a gantry while posting the names of personnel lost in the battle. The name she had just posted was that of her husband.

Diary, page 18

## School mourns Donna

Classmates of Donna Cooper, the 13-year-old girl who died after being hit by a stolen car, stood in silent tribute at her funeral yesterday. Other groups of children sobbed quietly as the cortege paused briefly outside the gates of Felsall Community School. Large crowds also gathered in the rain outside Donna's home, where flowers and wreaths surrounded the front door. Donna, one of Jennifer and Robert Cooper's five children, was struck and dragged 100 yards by a car which failed to stop near her home in Roshall, West Midlands, last week.

## French choose Rogers

The Richard Rogers Partnership has won an open competition for a £30 million extension to the Bordeaux magistrates court. Commissioned by the French Ministry of Justice, the building will have a large glazed public hall and incorporate a stretch of ancient fortress wall. Sir Richard Rogers, who designed the controversial Lloyd's Building in the City, said that within the hall "seven new courts will be suspended from above like boats with funnels breaking the skyline of the building". His career sprang from the success of the Pompidou Centre in Paris.

## Mirror loses libel case

Det Sgt Alan Long, formerly of Northumbria police, won a "substantial" libel damages in the High Court yesterday. Paul Foot, right, the *Daily Mirror* columnist, wrongly accused him in 1988 of perjury and inventing confessions of suspected armed robbers. Mirror Group Newspapers, Mr Foot and Richard Stott, former editor of the *Mirror*, agreed to pay damages and legal costs.



## Who's who and new

The 1993 edition of *Who's Who*, the bible for social climbers, journalists and establishment debutantes, is published today and contains 1,000 new entries among its 29,000 array of the great and good. Those who have made it into the awesome red volume for the first time include actresses Joan Collins and Emma Thompson, Will Carling, captain of the England rugby team, Stella Rimington, director general of the security service, Darcey Bussell, the ballerina.

## King's village found

Archaeologists believe they have found King Alfred the Great's lost village. Legend has it that the Saxon king owned an estate in Wedmore, Somerset, where he is said to have forced invading Danes to sign a treaty dividing England in two in 878 and making him King of Wessex. An excavation of an orchard in the grounds of a 15th century house has unearthed new evidence, including pottery and parts of timber homes up to 1,000 years old. Locals hope that the finds will halt plans to build houses on what is the village's last open space.

## £800,000 Oxfam gift

A widow has left Oxfam its largest donation of at least £800,000. The bequest from Agnes Spink of East Budleigh, Devon, outstrips the £650,000 gift last month from the New York-based financier George Soros. Mrs Spink, a long-time supporter of Oxfam, died in August and left most of her estate to the charity. An Oxfam spokesman said the bequest comprised stocks and shares and could be worth £1 million. It will go into a trust fund and Oxfam will be able to use the revenue.

## Crossword deadlines

The qualifier puzzle for *The Times* Crossword Championship will be published on April 15. Competitors must solve it correctly to enter. The eliminator puzzle will appear on May 13. Regional finals are: Glasgow, May 16; Leeds, May 20; Bristol, June 27; London, July 10; Birmingham, August 1; national final, September 12. Full details will be published on April 15.

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# Survivors of Hillsborough disaster suffer in silence

By Nigel Hawkes  
SCIENCE EDITOR

VICTIMS of the Hillsborough disaster have been deterred from seeking counselling through a combination of shock, the fear of appearing weak and the feeling that others were more deserving of help.

Some survivors were so numbed they rejected help, while others had such a poor opinion of social workers that they thought they would be stigmatised by becoming involved with them. Yet most of those who did accept help were glad they had done so.

A study of the aftermath of the Hillsborough disaster in 1989, in which 95 people died and 400 needed hospital treatment, has shown both the value of counselling and the reluctance of many victims to seek it. "It was guilt that I felt... because it should be you and not someone else. Because you're so close to it and that you're thinking you should be with them, but you are not, you're still alive," said a male survivor.

Dr Tim Newburn, of the National Institute for Social

Nearly four years after the football stadium tragedy, many of those who lived through it still feel guilty that they were not among the 95 who died

Work, who carried out the study, concluded that the effects of the disaster on survivors, their families and even the social workers who counselled them, may be severe and long-term.

Many survivors said they had become preoccupied by the disaster and were drawn to any newspaper, television or radio account nearly four years later. Some were emotionally paralysed, unable to do anything other than cry. Others felt a sense of guilt, either because they felt they had not done enough to help others, or that in saving themselves they had reduced other people's chance of survival. Feelings of numbness, the inability to cope and difficulties in relating to partners and families were also common.

Despite the problems, more than a third of the male survivors questioned said they had not sought help. Among

women, only 16 per cent had not been counselled. For men, the obstacle was their self-image: "I've never admitted weakness... I've always got on with the job and I've always looked at myself as a strong person," one said.

Social workers themselves shunned offers of support provided by their employers: "What's going to go down on paper?" one of them said. "Needing support was taken to mean indication of professional failure or personal inadequacy," Dr Newburn said.

There was also ignorance among survivors and the bereaved about the nature of counselling. "I hadn't the foggiest and I thought it was just people trying to tell me I should pull myself together," one woman said.

Dr Newburn found that support needed to be long-term to be useful. "Hillsborough was not an isolated

event for those affected. It was followed by an official enquiry, inquests and a series of legal cases which were vivid reminders of the tragedy and, in many cases, added to people's suffering."

Often, the offer of practical help to the victims was the most effective way of gaining their confidence. That part of the work was usually given little importance in analyses of social work. Dr Newburn said, but it was among the most important aspects. Not only is practical help important, but it creates the trust needed to begin counselling.

Among the more controversial techniques used by the Hillsborough social workers was exposing the victims to video and photographic material, to take them through the disaster. "Watching the video material, though frequently harrowing and extremely distressing, was almost universally agreed to have been a positive thing," Dr Newburn concluded.

**Making a Difference?** Social Work after Hillsborough. (National Institute for Social Work, 5 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SS; £7.50)



Aftermath of disaster: many male survivors have rejected offers of counselling

## Gay groups want lovers to inherit council flats

By Rachel Kelly  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to allow homosexual lovers of council tenants to continue renting their council home when their partner dies have the cross-party support of more than 60 councils and the main Aids charities.

The Opposition amendment to the housing bill, to be discussed shortly, would bring homosexuals into line with spouses, common-law partners and family members who already have the right to inherit the tenancy to council property under the 1985 Housing Act. A survey of 131 local authorities by the gay pressure group Stonewall found that 48 per cent of councils which responded supported the proposed amendment, and a further 32 per cent would not oppose it.

Under existing law, the successor to the tenancy must have been living in the property as their main home. Cohabitants and family members must have lived with the tenant throughout the 12 months which ended in the tenant's death. But same-sex couples are excluded. The amendment would extend this right of succession to gay and lesbian couples.

Angela Mason, of Stonewall, said: "The government has made clear it has some sympathy for the amendment."

Councils, however, stress the problem of deciding whether a homosexual relationship is genuine. Matthew Warburton, housing under secretary at the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said: "It may prove difficult to define a gay and lesbian relationship. Any test of whether a partnership is genuine is a bit of a blunt instrument, and there will always be some cases which fall down. But the problems are not insuperable."

Stephen Campbell, social policy spokesman for the Conservative-controlled Association of County Councils, said the amendment was right in principle and was in keeping with the latest professional practice on adoption law, which allows single people and homosexual couples to be considered as candidates.

The amendment will be debated in Standing Committee in the next few weeks. Glenda Jackson and John Birt, the shadow housing minister, are expected to speak in favour. The amendment is also supported by gay and lesbian pressure groups, Britain's Aids organisations, and some local authorities.

Ms Mason said: "Partners in same-sex relationships should not face eviction if their partner dies. The emotional trauma of bereavement should not be compounded by the threat of homelessness." She described the amendment as humane, and one that recognised the basic civil rights of lesbian and gay partners.

Some local authorities already allow lesbians and gay men to inherit their partner's tenancy.

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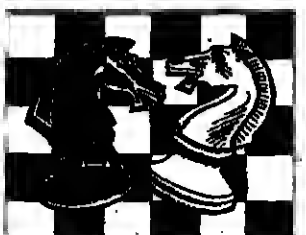
## Kasparov checks in for charity

GARY Kasparov, world chess champion and the highest rated player in history, faces one of the biggest challenges of his career when he takes on 100 players simultaneously in a charity chess challenge on February 17 sponsored by The Times and Simpson's-in-the-Strand (Tim Jones writes).

The champion will begin the Kasparov Charity Chess Challenge, which aims to raise money for The Sick Children's Trust, by playing celebrities likely to include Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, the Marquess of Bath, the lyricist Tim Rice and Luke McShane, rising star of British chess.

The champion's skill and stamina will be tested to the full when he faces 25 teams of four players, each team pledged to donate £1,000. There are also tickets available to watch or to engage visiting celebrities in a game.

Kasparov said: "My schedule does not permit me to do as much as I would like for charity but for children's charities I try to make an exception. I hope the evening will be fun." Anyone wishing to compete or watch should contact Hilary Gilmore at The Sick Children's Trust, 10 Guilford Street, London WC1, or fax on 071-831 3182.



THE KASPAROV  
CHARITY CHESS  
CHALLENGE

## Dinosaurs devour cartoon heroes

By Alison Roberts, Arts Reporter

DINOMANIA, which is the most recent children's craze and draws on the widespread fascination for dinosaurs, is entering popular culture in an appropriately huge way.

*Jurassic Park*, Steven Spielberg's film about the creatures and his most expensive venture yet, is to be shown in Britain in the summer. A new children's magazine, *The World of Dinosaurs*, is launched on Friday and staff at the Natural History Museum have been amazed by the flood of visitors to its Dinosaurs exhibition, which opened last year.

Dinosaurs are attracting the attention of children who have become bored with cartoon characters such as Ninja Turtles, according to the museum. Three-hour queues for the exhibition were reported, with lines of people stretching around the building.

As new discoveries about dinosaurs' social behaviour and their physical build are made, the attraction becomes greater, a museum spokesman said. Recent finds in the Isle of Wight have fuelled the craze and the Spielberg film threatens to bring dinomania to a peak.

The film revolves around the notion that dinosaurs can be brought to life from frag-

ments of DNA. Although this is fiction, the Natural History Museum says that scientists are actually working on the theory.

James Buchanan, managing director of Aim publications and publisher of the new magazine, said that the deep-rooted attraction to dinosaurs came from a respect for their fierceness. "Children are not frightened by them because they are not about to come through the bedroom window, but they appreciate the terrible size and appearance," he said.



Spielberg bringing monsters to life

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# The new leaders in hardware are now firm believers in paperware.

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\*Source: Romtec

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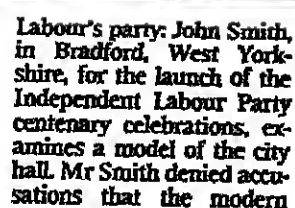


**Commons (2.30):** Questions: Home Office; prime minister. European Communities (amendment) bill, committee, fourth day.

The Euro-sceptics were only narrowly defeated in a Commons vote on the treaty in November but believe they have the support of the majority of the British people. Referendums on the Maastricht treaty have already been held in Denmark, France and Ireland, but a poll has been ruled

Line-by-line scrutiny of the bill recommenced in the Commons yesterday but immediately became bogged down in succession of points of order primarily concerned with the

After a half-hour delay for points of order yesterday, Mr. Cash rose to open the debate on an amendment to leave out Title 2 of the treaty, which outlines the steps to European union. Mr. Cash said Title 2 involved a move from the idea of an economic community to political union with European political parties "operating within the context of a politically integrated union".



... bluntly warns that taxes may have to be raised and public spending squeezed further. "The government is talking along a fiscal tightrope. Without robust economic growth, it will be teetering so while staring down a abyss of ever-increasing fiscal deficits."

Restoring the political authority of both the Chancellor and the President of the board of trade remains critical to the government's recovery.

**Tax fears, page 23**

labour would put primary health care, prevention and health promotion at the top of agenda for "a health service rather than an ill-health service".

Commons national heritage select committee to set government monitoring to prevent long-term loss of income by charities.

**ll cut charity**



The week before the national lottery bill has its Commons second reading, Mr Brooke faced pressure from the Commons national heritage select committee to set up government monitoring to prevent long-term loss of income by charities.

estimated £350 million of lottery money predicted to be available for arts, sports, charities and the national heritage would be additional to existing spending.

Mr Brooke said that, although there was a clear

Mr Brooke said there was a distinction between the luck of a lottery and the gambling element of pools. "If pools were allowed to advertise, we would receive pressure that all gambling should be able to advertise."

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 reasons why the  
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EC law blocks fourth deportation

## Defiant Triad victim fears for his life

By Julia Lewell-Smith

A FORMER detective from Hong Kong is hiding in fear of his life after a television programme revealed his part in an operation to expose a Manchester Triad gang.

Joe Tan was featured in Central Television's *The Cook Report*, which claimed that 95 per cent of Manchester's Chinese community pays protection money to the Triads. The programme led to three arrests and to questions to Kenneth Clarke, home secretary, and Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission.

Hidden cameras filmed members of the Wo Sing Wo Triad attacking Mr Tan after he opened a video shop in Chinatown, Manchester, without asking their permission. The Wo Sing Wo is believed to be the largest Triad in Britain.

Later, Mr Tan broke bones in both feet when he jumped down two flights of stairs in a Chinese restaurant to escape from the gang. He spent a month in hospital and is now at a secret location and confined to a wheelchair. Yesterday, he said he was willing to

MPs are calling for the deportation of the boss of a Triad gang in Manchester after television viewers watched gang members beat up a video shop owner

go through his ordeal again to help Chinese people in Britain.

"This sort of Triad activity is going on all over the world. The problem for the police is that Chinese communities are frightened and keep all their troubles to themselves. If they don't help themselves, nobody else will and I want to show them how. I'm not frightened or scared that they'll kill me. But I feel vulnerable because I can't walk."

The programme named George Pi as the boss of the Wo Sing Wo, which is behind nationwide protection rackets. Pi, 47, whose real name is Yau Chau-chee, has been deported from Britain three times but on Tuesday the European Court of Justice upheld his appeal against a fourth deportation order because his wife has business interests in Spain. The introduction of the European Single Market on January 1 removed the ban-

ders to freedom of movement across the EC.

Robert Litherland, the MP for Manchester Central which includes Chinatown, said he had written to Mr Clarke asking for Pi to be deported.

"The Chinese community tell me of the terrorising that goes on. Pi has got a fearsome reputation, he is involved in everything from protection rackets to prostitution."

His meetings with members of the city's Chinese community had been at secret locations outside the city. "They are very secretive and very scared about what is going on," he said.

Gary Tilley, Greater Manchester West's Euro MP, has tabled questions asking M Delors how Pi could be allowed to remain. "The single market was never designed to allow gangsters a safe refuge in the EC," he said.

Since the screening of the programme on Tuesday night, police have arrested two people and are seeking more.

Det Sgt Ray Piers, of the Anti-Triad Squad in Hong Kong, said Pi had convictions in the colony for offences including affray, carrying an



Crippled: Joe Tan, who was hurt fleeing from gangsters. He says he feels vulnerable because he cannot walk

members of the community, it has been getting worse."

Det Sgt Ray Piers, of the Anti-Triad Squad in Hong Kong, said Pi had convictions in the colony for offences including affray, carrying an

offensive weapon and wounding. In 1976, he was convicted of blackmail in Britain and deported.

Triad membership in Britain is believed to be relatively small with most estimates suggesting about 500 active members compared with an estimated 80,000 in Hong Kong. But their intimidation of the Chinese community in Britain, with bloody retributions and enforcement of cor-

rol, is considerable. Wo Sing Wo is thought to be the biggest British organisation and is largely based in Manchester and the North West.

With very little public funding, it relied on Allen's College of God's Gift, a charitable body attached to Dulwich College and Allen's School. But its contribution was no longer enough.

The art world said that storage of the pictures, or distribution to other galleries, would be outrageous. Many said the works could not be separated from their home, designed by Sir John Soane.

Leading article, page 19

## Clore gift rescues art gallery

By Alison Roberts  
Arts Reporter

DULWICH Picture Gallery in south London, Britain's oldest public gallery, has been saved from possible closure.

The Clore Foundation, founded by Charles Clore in 1964 and run by his daughter Vivien Duffield, has rescued the gallery from its financial difficulties. A donation of £200,000, announced yesterday, will allow the important collection of Old Masters to remain on show to the public.

Kate Knowles, a spokeswoman for the Dulwich Gallery, said that the money would keep the gallery going for a year, buying it time to establish its funding basis for 1994 and beyond. The donation will also secure several educational projects.

Earlier this month, it seemed that the collection of Old Masters might go into storage and be hidden from public view. The gallery had reached a crossroads, expecting only £350,000 income when £550,000 was needed.

With very little public funding, it relied on Allen's College of God's Gift, a charitable body attached to Dulwich College and Allen's School. But its contribution was no longer enough.

The art world said that storage of the pictures, or distribution to other galleries, would be outrageous. Many said the works could not be separated from their home, designed by Sir John Soane.



Pi: successful appeal against fourth deportation



Tilley: major problem which is getting worse

## Judge frees mother who killed partner

By A Staff Reporter

A WOMAN who killed her partner after he subjected her to ten years of torture was given probation yesterday.

Sandra Fleming, 26, admitted at Liverpool Crown Court killing Christopher Porter with his own gun at their home in April last year. The mother-of-three denied murder on the ground of diminished responsibility, but pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

She had suffered a decade of torture at the hands of Porter, who mutilated her, sexually abused her and threatened to kill her. Judge Wickham put her on probation for three years after hearing evidence in what he described as a "wholly exceptional" case. But he said: "No woman should get the idea that if she has been ill-treated by her partner she has the right to shoot him."

He said of the night that Fleming shot Porter: "It was a terrible thing to do but the doctors say you were suffering from an 'abnormality of mind'." Fleming was committing herself to a "life of horror" at the age of 15 when she met Porter, the judge added.

David Harris QC, for the defence, told how Fleming had been sexually assaulted, humiliated and tortured by Porter during their relationship.

ship. She had had a tattoo so her body could be recognised if she was killed and cut up as Porter had threatened. He removed the tattoo with a heated knife.

Mr Harris also told the court how Porter, a drug dealer and loan shark, had a pathological fear of doctors examining Fleming. That led Porter to deliver their second child at home without medical help by cutting Fleming with a razor and putting surgical spirit on her wounds.

Fleming had taken a cocktail of drugs and alcohol to dull the pain of a particularly gruesome ordeal at Porter's hands. When he was asleep, she fetched a gun Porter had hidden underneath "floorboards in their children's bedroom and shot him at their home in Bootle, Merseyside."

Porter also subjected the children — two girls aged eight and two and a nine-year-old boy — to brutality.

A pregnant wife who battered her sadistic husband and buried him beneath a garden patio has lodged an appeal against a two and half year jail sentence imposed by a judge at Stafford on Tuesday. Jill Stubbs, 32, had denied the murder of Michael Devaughn, 40, but admitted his manslaughter.

The way it isn't



FOR the past few weeks, I have been dipping into Graham Greene's enjoyable anthology of his own dreams, *A World of My Own*. It is a very funny book, giving very brief, deadpan accounts of his bizarre meetings with famous writers and politicians in "a world which is purely one's own."

In one dream, for instance, he passes "an agreeable evening" in a pub with Edward Heath, who introduces himself — rather quaintly, I thought — "I am the Right Honourable Edward Heath". Heath then offers Greene the ambassadorship to Scotland, which Greene reluctantly accepts when he hears that nobody else will take it. As

a mark of friendship, the two go swimming.

Last Saturday night, asleep after watching Greene on a television documentary, I found myself meeting him at a house party at which Lord St John of Fawsley was a guest. Throughout the weekend, he was very much as I had imagined him to be: courteous, observant and with a dry, conspiratorial humour.

Only towards the end of our stay did I notice anything unexpected. Looking down at his shoes, I noticed that they were decorated all over with bright red and yellow stripes, had upturned toes, like those of jesters, and were rounded off with 6in platform heels.

"I hadn't noticed your shoes before," I exclaimed. I could tell from his look that he was disappointed in me. "But I was wearing them in the pub yesterday, and everyone else commented on them," he replied. I felt I had failed a vital test of observation, and I knew then that I would never be included among his closest friends.

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## Somali 'deerhunters' kill marine and wound medic

FROM ALISTAIR LYON  
IN MOGADISHU

A SOMALI gunman shot and wounded a US naval medic yesterday, hours after ambushers, lying in wait like deerhunters, shot dead an American marine.

US troops went on high alert after the marine was killed in an ambush of a night patrol near Mogadishu airport on Tuesday. He was the first foreign soldier to be shot dead since the start of the American-led Operation Restore Hope on December 9. Captain Joe Davis, an American forces spokesman, said that the gunman had been lying in wait "like deerhunters". He added: "Everybody is being very careful in view of what happened, but you have to understand that Mogadishu is very volatile."

Hours later, a Somali gunman fired three shots at a midday marine patrol about 800 yards south of an old football stadium in north Mogadishu. One bullet hit a member of the US Navy Hospital Corps in the left shoulder, a military statement said. The marine fired back,

**Mogadishu gunmen have shot dead an American serviceman, their first such killing. As the peace talks falter in Addis Ababa, pressure is growing to disarm the militias**

but the statement did not say if they had hit the unidentified gunman.

Prospects for restoring stability in Somalia after two years of gun law plummeted when warlords ended nine days of talks in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, without agreement on a United Nations-brokered peace plan.

Eleven factions aligned with Ali Mahdi Muhammad said they would attend a national reconciliation conference on March 15 to establish Somalia's first government since rebels toppled President Mohamed Siad Barre in January 1991. But General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, his main rival, refused to join them unless he and his allies received special status in recognition of their military might and role in ousting Mr Siad Barre.

The breakdown increased pressure on the American-led

force to disarm the militias, whose clan feuding killed 30,000 people in Mogadishu after the dictator's overthrow. Washington has insisted that its troops are not in Somalia to act as a police force but to stop gunmen preying on relief efforts to save more than a million people at risk of starvation. Since the weekend US forces have stepped up raids on gun markets and arms caches in Mogadishu and have been seizing guns at roadblocks, but say they will not disarm all of Somalia.

Capt Davis, giving details of Tuesday's ambush, said: "At about 10 o'clock, we had an 11-man marine patrol ambushed about 700 yards northwest of the airport gate. One marine was killed by an unknown number of gunmen."

"After the initial firefight, they [the marines] went back to a rally point. A head count ran fast, and discovered

that one person was missing. They went back in along with some amphibious assault vehicles. More fire ensued. The bad guys retreated and they were able to recover the body."

Capt Davis said the Pentagon would name the dead soldier, from the 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, based at Camp Pendleton, California, after informing relatives. He said the foot patrol had set off from the airport, used by many task force units and foreign relief agencies.

"We are trying to help these people. I don't know why they are trying to shoot at us," said a marine from the same battalion who was patrolling the battlefield in Mogadishu yesterday. "I don't want to shoot anyone. I just want to do what I'm told to do and hope the people get fed. I didn't come here to hurt anybody."

At least 11 Somalis have been killed by foreign troops, who are permitted to shoot to kill if they believe their lives are in danger. More than 22,500 American military personnel, including those on board ships off the Somali coast, are involved in the aid mission. (Reuters)

## Allen and Farrow await final scene

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

WOODY Allen was leaving a New York court earlier this week, after the latest round in his child-custody battle with his former lover, the actress Mia Farrow, who a reporter asked him how he felt about the prospect of having to testify against her. "I can't wait," he replied.

For once the writer-director's response was not an example of his black humour, but the straight truth: the Allen-Farrow battle has reached such a remarkable level of mutual contempt that the leading man and woman seem genuinely eager for the final scene.

The dispute between them is technically over custody of their three children, and whether they are fit parents. In reality, however, the outcome of the case may hinge on none of these questions but on which of the two veteran actors puts on the better performance. The judge in the child custody suit is, as he himself admitted last week, virtually redundant: "You are trying this case a little bit to me and

mostly to the public," Acting Justice Elliot Wilk of the Manhattan state supreme court told both sides.

The latest charges go like this: in the New York supreme court last week, Ms Farrow's lawyers accused Mr Allen of having sex with Soon-Yi, her adopted daughter, in front of Dylan, seven, his adopted daughter, whom he is accused of molesting and abusing. Ms Farrow is accused by Mr Allen of brainwashing the children.

Each side has gone to extraordinary lengths to woo the media, with each story more lurid than the last. The media can be partly blamed for this, but the fault lies primarily with the actors and their lawyers, whose choice it was to play out their tale as a public relations fist-fight.

This week Judge Wilk ordered that a hearing into the case should be held on January 26, when Mr Allen and Ms Farrow will have to testify. This will be the first time either protagonist has taken the stand to submit to cross-examination.



Ready to fight: Woody Allen talking to reporters after seeing a judge about access to his children

## Savimbi vows to cut petrol

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS  
IN LUANDA

ANGOLAN soldiers fought to hold a key city in the oil-rich Zaire province yesterday, a day after Jonas Savimbi, the Unita rebel leader, vowed to "strike where it hurt most" and leave the government without petrol.

Rebel troops attacked Soyo, 190 miles north of Luanda, at dawn, following up an attack the previous day on a Belgian-owned oil well just north of the city. Government troops in Menongue, 500 miles southeast of the capital, clashed with a Unita force believed to be the vanguard of a convoy trying to open a route between the rebel headquarters in Huambo and a former Unita stronghold in the bushland of southernmost Cuango Cubango province.

Both sides claimed to hold Huambo, 330 miles southeast of Luanda. Rebel radio said intense bombing by government planes had killed hundreds and reduced most of the city to rubble.

Dr Savimbi has offered to negotiate, but refused to come to Luanda because of "security concerns". On Tuesday, he told the United Nations representative, Margaret Anstee, that Nigeria, Ivory Coast or Morocco would be feasible venues for talks.

Unita, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, has controlled more than half the country since fighting resumed on October 31 after Dr Savimbi refused to accept the results of elections he lost to President dos Santos.

## 'Horrors' of ANC camps denounced

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN  
IN JOHANNESBURG

A HARDLINE anti-communist organisation yesterday published a report denouncing the African National Congress's treatment of dissidents in exile and naming senior members as bearing responsibility for what a South African lawyer called "unbridled and sustained horror".

The International Freedom Foundation, an "educational institution" with headquarters in Washington, had commissioned Robert Douglas, 56, a barrister, to conduct a commission of enquiry into the detention centres established by the ANC in various African countries, in which dissidents and suspected spies were held, tortured and killed.

The ANC has admitted that appalling things were done in the camps. A report of its internal enquiry was published last year, and Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, announced last week that an independent enquiry has now been established.

Mr Douglas, a former parliamentary candidate for the Democratic party, blames the South African Communist party for the establishment of the ANC's security system, Mbokodo ("the boulder which crushes"). He names Communist party leaders, who also hold high rank in the ANC, as implicated. They include Chris Hani, the general secretary of the Communist party, Joe Slovo, its president, and Ronnie Kasrils, a member of the central committee.

## Bombay poor start to rebuild slums

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BOMBAY

BOMBAY'S slum dwellers, who bore the brunt of seven days of rioting instigated by religious extremists and criminal gangs, began reassembling their shattered homes under protection from the army yesterday.

Business in India's commercial capital, however, remained practically at a standstill, with millions of people forced to remain at home because of curfews. The Times of India, which conducted a survey of hospitals in the city, put the death toll from the riots at nearly 500, more than double the official figure.

Social workers estimate that as many as 50,000 people have fled their homes or were driven out by so-called "slum lords" who used the riots as cover. The battle for space in India's most crowded city lies behind the soaring crime rate and increased religious tension. Half of Bombay's 11 million people live in slums or on the streets. Dharavi, which is the biggest slum in Asia, sprawls across the heart of the city.

This was the second bout of rioting since the destruction of the Babri mosque in Ayodhya on December 6. The first was started by Muslims, who were driven back by police firing live rounds indiscriminately. The latest outbreak was led by Hindus, who were not even subjected to rearguard by the largely Hindu police force.



132 of the 183 people officially listed as killed in the first round of rioting had died from police action. Of those, 98 were Muslims. Most of the victims this time were also Muslims. Shiv Sena, an extremist Hindu organisation that controls parts of Bombay and wields substantial influence among builders and other businessmen, played a key role in the riots. Its newspaper, Saamna, pours out a daily fare of anti-Muslim vitriol.

Slum lords, with their political influence and access to armed gangs to do their bidding, had a free rein during the riots because of police indifference and a collapse of leadership from the state government of Maharashtra, of which Bombay is the capital.

Like the central government, the state administration is headed by the Congress (I) party, which has become almost paralysed by infighting and indecision since the destruction of the Ayodhya

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# Fatal shots lay bare the triple threat to British force

By ADAM LEBOR in VITEZ  
AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

IRONICALLY, the first British casualty among the 2,400-strong United Nations contingent in Bosnia was killed by a bullet apparently fired from a Croat or Muslim gun. His death underlined the unpredictability of the risks Western forces face each day in the former Yugoslav republic.

Since the British troops arrived in Bosnia in early November, the main source of risk has come from indiscriminate Serbian artillery and mortar fire. Serb gunners a few days ago let loose more than 130 shells on the garrison town of Tomislavgrad, home to hundreds of British soldiers, and several fell on the British compound, damaging vehicles and property. Serb forces have also repeatedly fired at British armoured vehicles escorting aid convoys along and across active front lines.

As the British troops, after their arrival, developed a daily routine of convoy escorts and armoured patrols, they learnt to expect Serb attacks, especially in such vulnerable spots as the so-called "bomb alley", a three-mile stretch north of Kladanj on the road to Tuzla in northern Bosnia.

But nothing in the Balkans is simple. The fresh eruption of fighting between previously

allied Croat and Muslim forces could be the precursor of the ultimate Bosnian nightmare: battles between the two sides in houses, streets and towns where nobody could ever be safe because there would be no front lines as a whole region turned into a giant Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, where danger and hardship are the population's daily lot.

The British UN force has contingency plans for this unnerving situation, as well as for several other possible scenarios, but a Muslim-Croat war would probably necessitate the force's evacuation, since its job would be made impossible.

When an advance British party went to Bosnia at the end of October last year, soldiers from The Cheshire Regiment, travelling in Land-Rovers, were caught in crossfire outside Vitez as Croat and Muslim troops attacked each other. This incident raised new fears for the British troops, since they were to be based in Vitez.

Croats and Muslims were supposed to be allies in the war against the Serbs and the breakdown in co-operation between the two forces caused considerable alarm. What it meant was that British troops could be vulnerable to attack



from three sides.

This triple threat was underlined by the more serious clash when groups of extreme Croat fascist troops indulged in brutal ethnic cleansing of the Muslim population in Prozor, southwest Bosnia. Since then, however, the Croats and Muslims have agreed to honour their alliance and set up a joint defence council.

The clashes last summer and autumn between Croats and Muslims were a terrifying precursor of the conditions under which the British UN contingent could have to work. Police checkpoints become frontline army positions when nervous soldiers point their

machineguns in every direction, hiding in ditches and behind trees and bushes while every house becomes a frontline battle zone.

Until recently the checkpoints on the road to and from the British base at Vitez were ringed with mines. Now the mines have gone, but security is once again being stepped up as Croat-Muslim tensions rise. So far the conflict between the two has remained more or less localised and there is hope that it can be contained and stopped. British officers are actively involved in negotiations between the warring sides.

But even if this latest Mus-

lim-Croat twist in the Bosnian tragedy can be contained, the ever-present threat from the Serbs remains. They could lay on a repeat of their previous attacks on British forces, such as that at Tomislavgrad, whenever they choose.

Warrior armoured vehicle reconnaissance patrols to the frontline village of Turbe, near Travnik, have been repeatedly shelled and suffered light damage. British troops also regularly travel to the besieged town of Tuzla, where they have been repeatedly targeted on the road in and out. Last weekend troops driving Warriors opened up for the first time with their 30mm Rarden

cannon as they came under fire. It can only be a precursor of things to come.

The British have three bases in Bosnia. In addition to the logistics camp at Tomislavgrad and the headquarters at Vitez, where the majority of The Cheshire Regiment is based, there is a forward camp at Gornji Vakuf. An armoured company 300-strong is located there, equipped with 15 Warriors and eight Scimitar light reconnaissance tanks.

The soldiers are from The Cheshire Regiment, 9th/12th Lancers, Royal Engineers, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and a few, including Lance Corporal

Wayne John Edwards, the man killed, from other regiments attached to the British battle group in Bosnia.

Gornji Vakuf is a dreary little town in central Bosnia whose only importance lies in its position on the road from the Croatian port of Split, through Tomislavgrad to the area around Vitez and Travnik. It lies at the end of a dirt track (known as "the road of salvation" along which aid comes) that snakes through the hills and much resembles a Wild West town, with every other man carrying a Kalashnikov assault rifle. Before the war its population was 32 per cent Muslim and 42 per cent Croat.

In the past 36 hours it has been simmering with violence, otherwise known as the Balkan factor. The town has not come under fire from Serbian artillery and with so many men at arms wandering the streets it is no great surprise that shooting has broken out between Croats and Muslims.

The fatal incident in the centre of the town yesterday morning did not appear to be a deliberate attack on the two British Warrior armoured infantry fighting vehicles as they escorted a civilian ambulance through Gornji Vakuf. L Cpl Edwards, 26, a Warrior driver from the Royal Welch Fusiliers, had only his helmeted head visible as the shots rang out.

While it is generally accepted that the British troops have been fortunate not to have suffered fatal casualties until now, yesterday's death served only to highlight the dangers, even in a town where the risks would normally be regarded as relatively low.

Fatal casualties have been avoided on the escorted convoys largely because the Serbian artillery and mortar fire has been inaccurate or, when there has been contact, the armour on the Warriors and Scimitars has protected the soldiers.

The death of L Cpl Edwards brings to 23 the number of UN military personnel killed in the peacekeeping and humanitarian operations in Croatia and Bosnia. There have also been 333 injured. Many of the casualties were not war-related.

Britain itself has now suffered one death and two injured, both of the latter incidents occurring just before Christmas. France has suffered the most casualties, with eight dead and about 50 injured. Three of its soldiers were killed in traffic accidents and two died in a Serbian ambush in Sarajevo.

Other UN soldiers killed have come from Canada, Ukraine, Argentina, Russia and Nigeria. Most of the deaths have occurred in Sarajevo and many of them have arisen from hazardous repair work on damaged utilities.

## Death of soldier boosts case for UK reinforcements

The cabinet meeting today is likely to approve the deployment of a powerful array of air, naval and ground forces in the Balkans

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE first fatality among British troops engaged in relief operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina is likely to strengthen the case for reinforcements to be sent to the region, John Major and his senior colleagues indicated yesterday.

The cabinet is expected to approve today the deployment of a powerful array of air, naval and ground forces in the Balkans. Yesterday, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and Douglas Hogg, a Foreign Office minister, emphasised the contribution the 2,400 British troops were making in bringing food and medicines to besieged towns and cities in former Yugoslavia.

Paying tribute to the dead man and extending their sympathies to his relatives, the two ministers made clear that Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, would be pressing ahead with the package of reinforcements he will present to the cabinet. The prime minister, who has made the safety of the British troops in Bosnia the "paramount" consideration in his approach to the conflict in the Balkans, said: "I am very sad. This soldier has lost his life in working to save the lives of many others. No one can make a greater sacrifice than that. His family have my deepest in the sorrow they face."

Downing Street officials said that the government had never underestimated the risks of bringing succour to beleaguered Bosnians. In a hint that the reinforcements — led

by the aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal and including RAF jets, artillery and another 300 men — would soon be on their way to the Balkans, officials indicated that ministers had no intention of abandoning the humanitarian effort. "We will carry on providing humanitarian aid," one senior source said.

Labour also warmly endorsed the role played by British forces in the humanitarian operation. Most Conservative MPs remain strongly opposed to a combat role for British troops, but there were few signs in the Commons yesterday that the shooting of the soldier, Lance Corporal Wayne Edwards, from the Cheshire Regiment, in the Muslim-Croat town of Gornji Vakuf, would lead to demands for a British withdrawal from the Balkans.

Mr Hurd told MPs that the Bosnian conflict had claimed its first life among the British contingent shortly before he flew to Brussels for a meeting of European Community foreign ministers reviewing the outcome of the Geneva peace talks. After expressing his condolences to the relatives of the dead man, the foreign secretary said the British forces in the region were carrying out a necessary job successfully. So far, they had escorted 147 convoys carrying nearly 12,000 tonnes of food aid.

"Lives have been saved," he said.

Mr Hogg, who has responsibility for Eastern Europe at the Foreign Office, said that

the government was still trying to establish the full circumstances of the "tragedy" of the soldier's death and then see what lessons could be learnt from it.

George Robertson, a Labour frontbench foreign affairs spokesman, joined the expressions of sympathy. "Our troops wearing the blue helmets of the UN are involved in a heroic task of getting humanitarian help to thousands of people who would otherwise die in the winter of this horrible civil war."

"It was never going to be a risk-free operation, but it is still a significant tragedy when even one of our troops is killed for the greater good of the people of this troubled area."

After meeting Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian foreign minister, a critic of British policy in the Balkans, Mr Hurd welcomed the "progress" made in Geneva where Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, had accepted a settlement subject to approval by his supporters' self-styled assembly. Mr Robertson said it was the first "glimmer of hope".

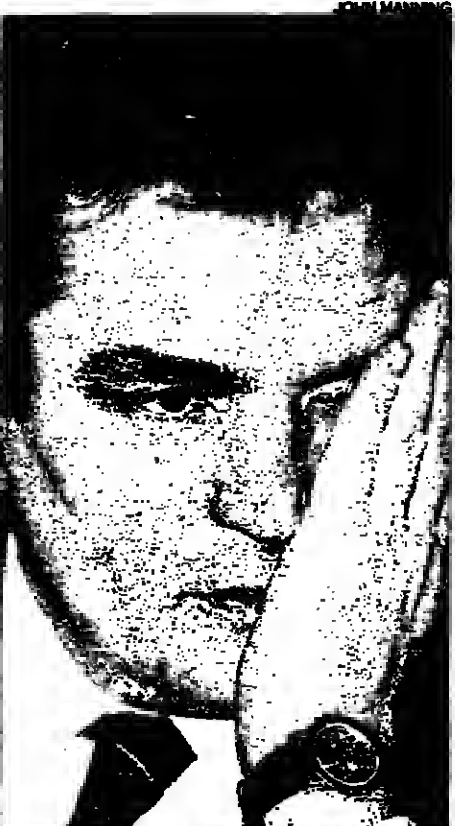
The foreign secretary was pressed by a number of Tory MPs to endorse Mr Silajdzic's call for all heavy weaponry to be placed under United Nations control. Mr Hurd said that this had been opposed by the Bosnian Serbs but was part of the settlement they had conditionally accepted.

Soldier killed, page 1  
William Rees-Mogg, page 18



Farewell to arms: Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, who accepts the Geneva peace plan. He expects his supporters in their self-styled assembly to accept the deal, but says that he will resign if they reject it.

## West told there must be no let-up in pressure on Belgrade



Silajdzic: all artillery should be in UN hands if Sarajevo siege is to end

ALL heavy weapons in Bosnia-Herzegovina should be placed under the direct control of United Nations troops, Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian foreign minister, said yesterday. He expressed guarded optimism that the Bosnian Serbs would accept the peace accord provisionally reached in Geneva.

Mr Silajdzic, making a visit to London, said that enforcing international resolutions intended to deny artillery to the combatants was essential to halting the fighting and lifting the siege of Sarajevo. In an interview with *The Times* shortly before seeing Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, Mr Silajdzic maintained strongly that it was vital for the West to keep up the military and diplomatic pressure on the Serbs if it wanted a lasting peace settlement.

He was scathing about the stance adopted by Britain and its European partners towards the conflict, saying that, had Lady Thatcher and not John Major been at the helm, the Belgrade government would not have been allowed to get away with "genocide" against the Muslim communities.

Slobodan Milosevic, the hardline Serbian president, was only now outlining pressure on

Britain and other nations allowed the Serbs to get away with murder by ruling out military intervention, but now their bluff has been called and there is ground for optimism, the Bosnian foreign minister, now in London, tells Nicholas Wood

Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, to accept peace terms because the West had belatedly become serious about military intervention. United States threats of cruise missile attacks on Serbian airfields and the growing prospect of enforcement of the air exclusion zone had forced a change of heart in Belgrade.

"The Belgrade regime received a message that the international community was serious. That has made a difference. There is no more talk about non-intervention," Mr Silajdzic said.

They used force against Bosnia because Bosnia did not have force. Now they are faced with the same methods: 'If you do not stop using force, it will be used against you.' It is the only thing they understand. Now they see it is not a bluff — that's why all of a sudden they are very peace-loving."

Mr Silajdzic said that the West should keep up the pressure by enforcing the no-fly zone. If it did

not, the Serbs would interpret it as a loss of resolve and might press ahead with the war.

The minister, who also met Opposition leaders yesterday at Westminster, said that by repeatedly ruling out military intervention Britain and other European countries had encouraged Serbian aggression. "Having frequent statements that there would be no intervention violates the art of statesmanship. It is not statesmanship to say what you are not going to do. Saying that they would not intervene was giving the green light to continuing aggression."

Britain had not only failed to come to the defence of the Bosnians, it had denied them the means to defend themselves, Mr Silajdzic said. "I have been critical of the role of the British government because I believe that if you cannot help a country in deep trouble, you should stand aside."

"Our people never understood these statements that there

should be no intervention, even after it was clear that a genocide is taking place down there. What right do they have. If they do not want to intervene, to prevent us exercising our right to self-defence? How could they impose an embargo that hits only Bosnia, only the victims?"

That policy had failed in its stated aim of curbing the violence. "Could you imagine more violence than 200,000 people dead and 1.5 million homeless?"

Mr Major had succumbed to a wider paralysis in European politics and psychological dependence on the United States, Mr Silajdzic said. Had Lady Thatcher, who he had met several times, stayed in power, she would have broken this logjam and shown the "courage to take risks, to take decisions."

Mr Silajdzic added: "Leadership means decision-taking, even though decisions are sometimes not very popular. It is easy to take popular decisions."

His optimism about the Geneva settlement was based on the belief that Mr Milosevic would not allow the "militants" in the self-styled Bosnian Serb assembly to stand in his way. But a weary-looking Mr Silajdzic, 47, a writer and historian, who had flown to London from the peace

talks, was in no mood for celebration. "What Europe did in Bosnia will never be forgotten. Genocide took place with Europe watching. Nothing can change that fact now. One and a half million innocent civilians are homeless and Europe will have to live with it not only morally but with the practical consequences as well."

Mr Silajdzic said. The EC said yesterday it has failed to get its members jointly to recognise Macedonia because of Greek opposition to that name for the former Yugoslav republic. It suggested that the Twelve do so unilaterally if Macedonia joins the United Nations, possibly as early as next week. Greece denounced this as "unacceptable and outside the context of Community decisions," according to the Greek foreign ministry spokesman, Dimitris Avramopoulos, in Athens.

Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish foreign minister, whose country holds the EC presidency, said the dispute had caused economic hardship in the republic. No EC humanitarian aid had yet reached Macedonia, and he indirectly blamed Greece for this. "I am going to have some very serious questions" for the Greek government, he added. (AP)

## UN denies helping Serbs to steal aid

Geneva: United Nations relief officials have disputed an American report that said Serbian forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina have been diverting nearly a quarter of all supplies sent to Sarajevo with the consent of the United Nations. Sylvana Fox, chief spokeswoman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said that all parties to the nine-month-old civil war were skimming relief supplies to some extent. "But to say that we would give it to the Serbian militia is just not true," she said.

She also expressed doubts about the figure of 23 per cent that had been cited as the volume of supplies diverted.

The New York Times said that UN recognised the Serbs as the "de facto authority" in the region and had sought to "appease the Serb militias by providing 'authorities' a portion of all relief commodities arriving by air." (AFP)

## Cambodia peace workers killed

Siem Reap, Cambodia: Two Cambodian women hired to register voters by the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac) were murdered by unidentified gunmen as they slept.

The women's tent was raked by automatic rifle fire near here. It was the first killing of UN peacekeepers in Cambodia. Two UN policemen, from Ghana and India, were wounded. Yasushi Akashi, the Untac chief, denounced the killings. The elections are likely in April or May. (AFP)

## Germany agrees use of troops

Bonn: The German coalition government agreed to try to sweep away constitutional barriers to let German forces join international military operations, officials said. Klaus Kinkel, the foreign minister, said they should now hold talks with the more reluctant opposition Social Democrats.

The ruling parties agreed that German soldiers should be able to take part in United Nations operations, even if this meant a direct combat role, and UN-approved emergency intervention missions led by Western alliances such as Nato or the Western European Union. (Reuters)

Tokyo to discuss military role

Tokyo: Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic party said it planned to open formal discussions in parliament on amending the American-drafted "peace constitution". Hiroshi Mitsuoka, chairman of the policy affairs council, said Japan's contribution to United Nations peacekeeping activities must be enlarged and that this would require constitutional changes. Kiichi Miyazawa, the prime minister, has repeatedly vowed not to seek to alter the key "no-war, no-military" clause. (Reuters)



# Honecker's release to Chilean exile cheats his victims

■ The trial of the former East German leader over Berlin Wall killings has halted in frustration and farce. The attempted catharsis of a totalitarian past will end in a blurred evasion of responsibilities

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN BERLIN

TO THE anguish of those who lost relatives at the Berlin Wall, the secret relief of the German government and the bewilderment of the entire country, Erich Honecker was released from Moabit prison yesterday and flown to Chile.

The trial of the former East German leader was halted after a Berlin regional court, where he faced charges of abuse of power, upheld the verdict of another court on Tuesday that Herr Honecker's liver cancer was too far advanced to allow proceedings to continue.

He left prison under heavy police escort and was driven straight to Tegel airport for a flight to Frankfurt. He was flying to Chile to join his wife, Margot, and daughter, Sonja. He is expected to die within six months.

Moscow, where he had taken refuge in the Chilean embassy. But the attempt to confront the man who ruled East Germany for 18 years with the killings authorised by his regime, and the corruption of his leadership, ended in frustration and farce.

Proceedings almost collapsed last week, after the presiding judge was dismissed for attempting to conceal his request for Herr Honecker's autograph. Of his 13 days in court, only four were spent on the charges; the rest were taken up with wrangles over his fitness to stand trial.

Without him, the trial of three other defendants — Heinz Kessler, 71, the former defence minister; Fritz Streletz, 66, chief of the general staff; and Hans Albrecht, 73, a regional party leader — will prove inconclusive.

head of the Stasi secret police. What started out as the attempted catharsis of East Germany's totalitarian past will end instead in a blurred evasion of responsibilities.

Herr Honecker, pale and silent during most of the proceedings, spoke out only once, in a defiant justification of his role in building the Wall and following hardline communism. He said the wall had prevented millions of deaths in a European nuclear war without it there would have been no East-West rapprochement and no German unity.

In an hour-long speech as selective and self-serving as the old East German propaganda, he expressed only hints of regret at the deaths on the wall, which he said "not only affected us personally, but damaged us politically". But he insisted that he had killed no one himself and that the federal authorities had no right to try him for his state duties.



Road to freedom: Erich Honecker leaving prison in Berlin after a court decided yesterday to release him. The former East German leader, who has liver cancer, had been on trial for the manslaughter of people fleeing his regime

legal norms and proceedings of another.

Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, who — Herr Honecker noted sarcastically during his trial — had received him in Bonn with full head of state honours in 1987, made no comment on yesterday's outcome. He had promised at the start that this would not be a "political trial".

German citizens who expected much of the trial.

Ordinary Germans are angered and exasperated. For millions, Herr Honecker's sanctimonious propaganda, slavish pro-Soviet policies and unbending ideology personified the cruelty and hypocrisy of the East German regime. The thousands who fled before the wall came down in 1989, and the millions forced to endure petty humiliations at the hands of East German officials, still want to see Herr Honecker punished.

politicians facing persecution under the Pinochet dictatorship.

Among them was a recent Chilean ambassador to Moscow, who gave Herr Honecker sanctuary when Russia came under pressure to return him to Germany. Herr Honecker's daughter, Sonja, is married to a Chilean, but neither she nor Margot Honecker, a once powerful political figure in her own right, whose relations with her husband were apparently as icy as her public demeanour, stayed in Berlin to await the outcome of the trial. As many have noted wryly, he is only the latest in a string of bad Germans to flee to South America.

to turn up at Santiago airport today to demonstrate support for Herr Honecker. Graciela Alvarez, head of a left-wing coalition called the "Committee for Honecker's Freedom", made the call for a demonstration of support in a press statement.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Aristide to regain power in Haiti

Miami: Haiti's military leaders are to allow President Aristide, ousted 15 months ago, to return to power, according to sources in Washington and Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital (David Adams writes).

After intense diplomatic negotiations, involving officials from President Bush's administration and the transition team of Bill Clinton, the president-elect, the Haitian military high command has signed a document, handed to the United Nations, agreeing to the return of Father Aristide.

Although no date for his return has been specified, observers say that the agreement could be enough to prevent a mass exodus of more than 100,000 Haitian refugees apparently preparing to leave for Florida.

In return for the agreement, Father Aristide has publicly offered a general amnesty to military officers involved in the coup that toppled him. In a speech broadcast by Voice of America, he told Haitians not to flee their country. "I am quite sure that if [Haitians] stay at home... we will soon see the changes we are looking for," he said.

### Keating speaks up for troops

Brisbane: Paul Keating, the prime minister, has accused Britain of blaming Australian soldiers for a failure of its own defence policy in 1942 (Robert Cockburn writes).

He attacked papers released by the British Public Records Office accusing Australian troops of looting, rape and drunkenness in Singapore during the second world war. Mr Keating said that Australian troops in Singapore had acted overwhelmingly with "courage and distinction".

### Patten boosted

Hong Kong: The Legislative Council has voted 35-2 against a call for Chris Patten, the governor, to withdraw his constitutional reform plans. The vote affirms the council's right to a say in the colony's affairs before its 1997 hand-over to China.

### Pact agreed

Paris: France's neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic and the centre-right Union for Democracy parties have agreed to field joint candidates in 460 of the 577 constituencies in March parliamentary elections. They are favourites to topple the Socialists. (Reuter)

### Vilnius trial set

Moscow: Former leaders of Lithuania's Communist party are to be tried for their involvement in armed intervention by Soviet troops in Vilnius during January 1991. Fourteen people were killed in the operation. (AFP)

### Minister quits

Bern: René Felber, the Swiss foreign minister, announced his resignation, citing ill health. He supported European integration, only to see Swiss voters reject membership of an enlarged European market last month. (Reuter)

### Chernobyl fire

Kiev: Fire broke out at the Chernobyl power station, site of the world's worst nuclear accident in 1986, but officials said it was extinguished within an hour and there was no radiation danger. The blaze started in a shed between two reactors. (Reuter)

### Shuttle mission

Cape Canaveral: The shuttle Endeavour blasted off from Florida carrying five astronauts on a weeklong mission to release a communications satellite and study Milky Way gases. (AFP)

## Scandal hangs over Schluter

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

POUL Schluter, the Danish prime minister, who heads a minority Conservative-Liberal government, today faces a moment of truth over a refugee scandal that could end his successful decade in power on a note of disgrace.

After a 32-month enquiry, Judge Mogens Hornset, of the supreme court, is to unveil a 6,000-page report on Sri Lankan exiles that, commentators say, could bring down the government, which has just taken over the European Community presidency, and sweep the Social Democrats to power.

Mr Schluter, who will receive his copy early today, has said he will devote five and a half hours to reading the document.

The Danish Tamil affair dates back to 1987, when Erik Ninn-Hansen, a former justice minister, anticipating a tightening of immigration laws which never materialised, ordered that relatives in Sri Lanka of Tamil refugees in Denmark would no longer be allowed to join their families here. The decision, in breach of Danish law, was later reversed by a new justice minister, forcing Mr Schluter to set up an enquiry to investigate the matter.

unequivocal that Mr Schluter resigns on his own accord. It will be a question of how he and the opposition choose to interpret the material and distribute the blame, a process which could take some days.

Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, the new leader of the Social Democrat party and a popular former trade union economist, is likely to seize on the report in an attempt to bring his party back to power after ten bleak years in opposition. But Mr Schluter's fate will be decided by the small Radical Liberal party, which holds the balance of power in parliament and refuses to say whether it will continue to support the prime minister after reading the Tamil report.

At a meeting with the European Commission, visiting Denmark to mark its accession to the presidency, Mr Schluter yesterday outlined the main aims of his country's leadership: enlargement negotiations with Sweden, Finland and Austria, due to start on February 1; moves to fight the recession by encouraging economic growth and reducing unemployment; and introducing greater openness, transparency and subsidiarity into the conduct of Community affairs. It was announced that Denmark is to host an EC conference in Copenhagen on April 13 and 14 with the Baltic states and countries of Central and Eastern Europe, but not the Commonwealth of Independent States, on ways to boost political and economic reform and strengthen relations with the Community.

## Peking press takes bite at McDonald's pay policy

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

WHEN the world's largest McDonald's opened in Peking almost a year ago, eager young staff could hardly stop smiling at their entry into the ultimate capitalist workplace. Now the honeymoon for the "Maidanglao" restaurant, as it is known here, is over.

People are still buying hamburgers there, but a few minutes' walk from Tiananmen Square, at its staffed policies are under attack. The Peking Youth News devoted its front page this week to allegations that staff were underpaid, underfed and cold. One employee, Dong Tao, 23, circulated leaflets urging colleagues to unite and demand better treatment.

McDonald's denies the allegations. More than 20,000 people applied to work there last year, answering advertisements which offered a far higher salary than the local state-run textile factory. Applicants who despaired of getting out of China thought that they might one day be rewarded with a two-week stay at Hamburger University in Illinois.

The News allegations highlight the distrust of foreign ventures here. The report concentrated on staffing policies in foreign joint ventures, but mentioned nothing of the abuses which exist in almost every Chinese state-run workplace, where trade unions work closely with management and the Communist party committee, and in no way represent the interests of workers.

"It's the first time I have

heard such complaints," said McDonald's Taiwanese manager, Timothy Lai. "I think the problem is that we pioneered the hourly rate in China and people aren't used to it."

The News said that some staff had complained that they were earning only about £25 a month, when they had expected £50, a figure based on an eight-hour working day. According to Mr Lai, half of McDonald's staff are part-timers. In China's state-run industries, four or five hours' work is considered a full day.

The advertisements said staff would be rewarded for performance, but the News

quoted some staff complaining that only a minority gets rewarded. Under McDonald's regulations, staff are allowed one meal for four hours' work, and two meals for six hours' work. Some staff members have complained they do not get enough to eat. The News also quotes staff complaining that in Peking's sub-zero winter temperatures they have to wear short-sleeved uniforms.

Mr Lai, however, insists that all McDonald's worldwide are kept at a comfortable 22°C. He says he intends to discuss the problem in a series of meetings with staff — "the McDonald's way, through communication".



Taste of capitalism: two policemen sampling McDonald's fare in the Peking restaurant

## Nixon 'cast aside missing POWs'

FROM REUTER IN WASHINGTON

A UNITED STATES Senate report, expected to have been issued yesterday, says the Nixon administration "shunted aside" the possibility that some American prisoners of war were left behind in its rush to extricate Washington from the Vietnam war.

In a draft report, the Senate select committee on prisoners of war and servicemen missing in action said it had uncovered evidence that American captives may have survived in Southeast Asia after the mass repatriation of prisoners, which was known as Operation Homecoming.

Officials in the administration of Richard Nixon did not have "certain knowledge that any specific prisoner or prisoners were being left behind", the draft summary said. "But there remains the troubling question of whether the Americans who were expected to return but did not were, as a group, shunted aside and discounted by government and population alike. The answer to that question is essentially yes." The senators dropped a proposed addition in a draft produced by staff aides that said "and it is in this sense that a form of abandonment did take place".

A lawyer for Henry Kissinger, Mr Nixon's former secretary of state, had complained to John Kerry, the committee chairman, about the wording of an earlier draft. In a letter to Mr Kerry, Lloyd Cutler, a lawyer, had asked for detailed revisions, saying the draft was "totally lacking in historical perspective".

A total of 591 American prisoners of war were sent home in the spring of 1973 when US forces were withdrawn from Indochina. The committee's final report followed a year-long investigation prompted partly by photographs purporting to show Americans alive in captivity in Southeast Asia. "We acknowledge that there is no proof that US POWs survived, but neither is there proof that one or more did not," the draft said. "There is evidence, moreover, that indicates the possibility of survival at least for a small number, after Operation Homecoming."

Panel members said in the draft summary dated January 5 that they had hoped to find compelling evidence that some US prisoners of war remained alive. "Unfortunately, our hopes have not been realised," said the draft. "We simply cannot report evidence that missing Americans are alive or that there are firm reasons for anticipating the return of additional US POWs to American soil, whether through negotiation or rescue."

After Operation Homecoming, more than 70 Americans were officially listed as prisoners of war, the committee said, adding that the fate of some remains unknown to this day. The United States currently lists 2,264 Americans as unaccounted for from the Vietnam war. Unanswered questions about their fate are the chief obstacles to the lifting of an American trade embargo against Vietnam.



In tomorrow's Times, part one of 'Passport to France'.

A colourful and eminently collectable three part guide to the joys of France starts in The Times tomorrow.



## Rolling stones

SOME sound Victorian advice has been resurrected by doctors from the Bristol Royal Infirmary, who have been studying gallstones. They advise women who want to minimise the risk of developing stones, particularly if they are pregnant or taking the Pill, to have a hearty breakfast and to keep their bowels open by enjoying a high-fibre diet.

The report from Bristol in the *Lancet* suggests that the intestinal sluggishness which results in food taking longer to pass through the guts must now be added to other causes of gallstones. Research showed that when patients of normal weight developed gallstones, the average time that the fruit pips, or other more scientific markers, take in their journey from the dinner plate to the sewer increases from 63 hours to 82.

The female hormones produced in abundance in pregnancy, or taken in the contraceptive pill, tend to decrease the muscular tone of the colon and hence slow the passage of the intestinal contents.

Gallstones, which affect between 10 and 20 per cent of the population, are rare before ten and become increasingly



common as age advances. More gallstones are found in women than in men, particularly in those who are overweight or in patients with liver disease or diseases of the small intestine, particularly Crohn's disease. It has also been known for some time that the Pill increases the risk of the stones.

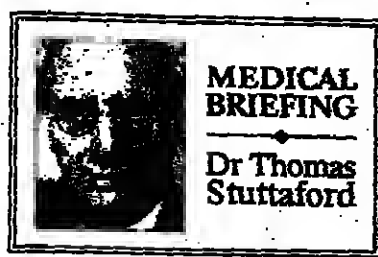
Although the overweight are more likely to develop gallstones, extreme dieting — which includes any periods of fasting — may actually increase rather than decrease the chances of developing one. Likewise, although cirrhosis increases the chance of having gallstones, if fit people take alcohol it is more likely to be the sugar in the mixers — whether they be tonic, dry gin or bitter lemon — rather than the gin or whisky which causes the trouble.

## Matter for the mind

AS DISASTROUS as Ben Silecock's obsession with lions was for him, other schizophrenic patients and their families have cause to be grateful to him for at least two reasons: the emphasis the incident in London zoo has placed on the plight of those for whom community care is inappropriate, and the publicity it has afforded the benefits of drug therapy in general, and clozapine in particular.

Mr Silecock's case has highlighted the difficulty experienced in getting a firm diagnosis from psychiatrists, and therefore the delay which occurs before effective treatment can be started. His problems also underline the misery which the emphasis on community care can create for both sufferers and their close relatives. It seems that while the term asylum is politically correct when applied to refugees, it becomes unacceptable when it refers to a refuge from day-to-day life. People with schizophrenia can be just as harassed and frightened by their own demons — the intrusive thoughts, hallucinations and delusions — as are some foreign nationals by the aggression of political opponents.

Although the old mental hospitals may sometimes be unsuitable for modern treatment, the understanding of a schizophrenic patient's special anxieties is now so good that it should be possible to design accommodation for them which would provide asylum but would spare the patient the demands which their personalities cannot cope. It



MEDICAL BRIEFING  
Dr Thomas Stafford

is often said that behaviour which is labelled psychotic in a patient from a lower income group is, when found in a richer, and perhaps more intelligent, patient, considered merely bizarre.

The famous eccentric dons who flourished at Oxford and Cambridge in the years up until the second world war often had schizotypal personalities, even if they were not completely schizophrenic, but they were able to operate reasonably efficiently as the collegiate system proved an ideal environment, with heat, light, food and service provided, intellectual stimulation and other people who could be relied upon to be unjudgmental and non-judgmental.

If schizophrenic patients are to live happily in the general community, or indeed in an institution, most will benefit if drug therapy is part of their general treatment. Drugs are helpful in two-thirds of patients but hitherto the other third has presented a considerable problem.

Recently Clozaril, a drug clozapine, has been licensed for the treatment of

those patients who do not respond to standard preparations. Since the Silecock case, clozapine has received publicity in various letters to the press from psychiatrists who complain that it is under-prescribed because of its expense and that as a result up to 50,000 schizophrenic patients are being denied the chance of relief from their terrifying symptoms solely on the grounds of cost.

Sixty per cent of severe, previously drug-resistant schizophrenic patients improve with clozapine. Symptoms such as withdrawal, inertia, lassitude, and some types of depression as well as agitation and violence can be relieved by the drug, and sometimes the effect is dramatic.

Clozapine has been used abroad for the past 15 years, but was first licensed for use in hospital practice only in Britain in 1990. It is a drug which has side-effects, the most important of which is reduction in the number of white blood cells; patients who take the drug must therefore have their blood checked weekly for the first four months, and thereafter fortnightly.

The disadvantages of this particular side-effect are to some extent balanced by a marked lessening in the risk of acute dyskinesia, involuntary grimacing, which occurs in 15 per cent of patients on the other neuroleptic drugs used in the treatment of schizophrenia. Fortunately, the great majority of people with this symptom lose it once the drugs are discontinued.



## A decision to sleep on

TEMAZEPAM, the sleeping pill, is the fourth most commonly prescribed drug in Britain, but the patients who collect the seven million scripts which doctors write for it each year may soon find that the local GP, however friendly, will in future be more reluctant to prescribe it.

Mint magazine reports that the government is consulting with the medical authorities, including the British Medical Association, about their plans to make temazepam, or Normison, a Schedule 3 controlled drug. When it has been applied to other drugs, this reclassification — which results in increasing work for the doctor every time he writes a

prescription — has resulted in a reduction in prescriptions by about 30 per cent.

The government is responding to pressure from the Home Office, which is concerned that in 1991 there were 5,000 reported incidents, and presumably many more unreported, when the drug was misused.

The desirability of allowing the delinquent behaviour of a tiny minority to influence the treatment by doctors of seven million, one assumes deserving, cases a year seems ethically questionable and possibly expensive. Other drugs likely to be prescribed instead of temazepam are lorazepam — another benzodiazepine which is not usually abused — or Zimovane, cyclopyrrolone, which has fewer side-effects than the benzodiazepines but is much more expensive.

## Not such hard labour after all

One sceptical father-to-be admits that childbirth classes can be useful

My cousin Geoffrey could be described as a rare, magical breed of male. Despite the entreaties of his pregnant wife he committed one of the great social heresies of the age by stoically refusing to attend childbirth classes. "It is like your wife having a brain operation and you going to a few evening classes so you can assist with the surgery," he said.

The only role I could foresee was defending my partner from being tempted into the worst excesses of class members keen to abandon 20th-century medical technology in favour of birth in a keg of orange juice. Arriving at the home of our tutor, my worst fears were confirmed. Several of the fathers-to-be were bearded. There was also a tell-tale range of aromatic teas on offer as refreshment. Before you could say Caesarean she would have us skydive in the back garden for a spot of mutual tummy touching.

Eight weeks later I was still attending classes and, dare one say, actually looking forward to them.

It had become obvious that I was far from prepared. At the first whiff of a wifely contraction I would have been bundling Sarah into the motor for

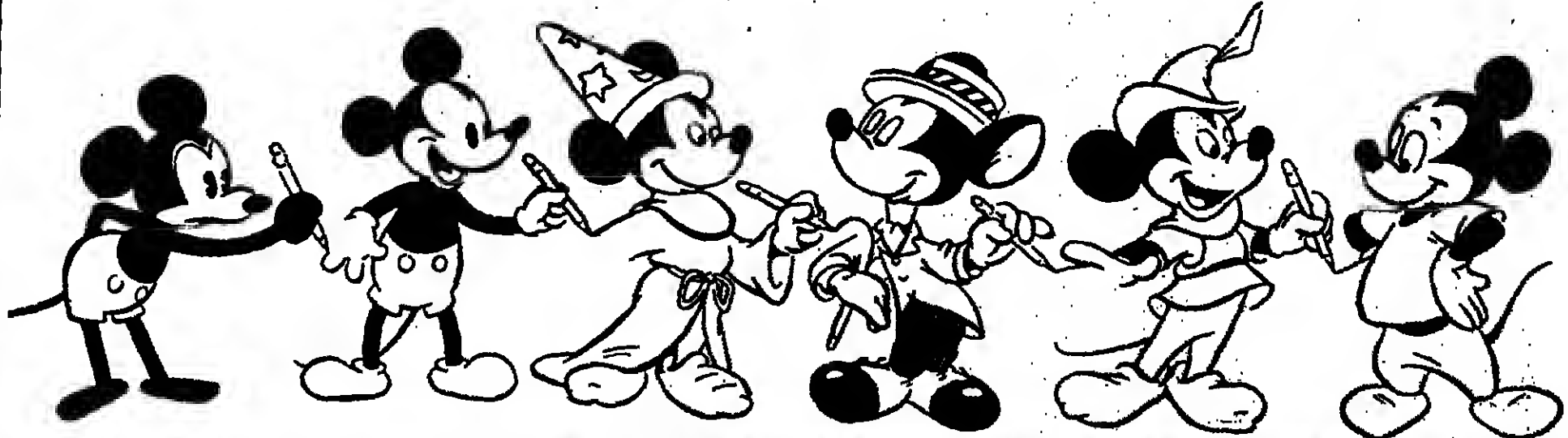
a dash to the delivery room. I had never heard of Braxton-Hicks contractions, muscular twitches linked with the firming of the uterus, which have fooled many a husband.

In a well-managed group we also had the chance to air concerns and fears, many of which as partners we had conveniently buried. Before the classes I had presumed that my only role in the delivery room was, rather like an impartial dignitary at the launch of a liner, to crack open the champagne. But most of the women in the group wanted husbands there to play storm trooper if, as can sometimes happen, the delivery team become pain-killer-and-forceps happy after a protracted labour.

Yet moments of bemusement did occur. During one class the men were asked to sit at the back with Play Mobile, a device which allows participants to arrange a toy delivery room complete with pregnant wife, dutiful father, hospital staff and equipment. None of us could see the point. Was it to prepare us for the layout of a real hospital room, or to keep us away from the women during a delicate discussion? It was never made clear.

NICK NUTTALL

Big eyes could keep you out of jail — and the boardroom. Jerome Burne reports



The mouse as role model: over the decades since his first appearance in 1928, Mickey Mouse has developed the archetypal baby-face — big eyes, small chin and plump cheeks

## Grown-up problems hit the baby-faces

A cute little baby-face may set the songwriter's heart jumping, but the rest of us, when not smitten with love or lust, are less enthusiastic. Instead, we see someone who is socially dependent, intellectually naive and physically weak. On the other hand, we also expect them to be honest, sincere and warm — and we have no idea we do so.

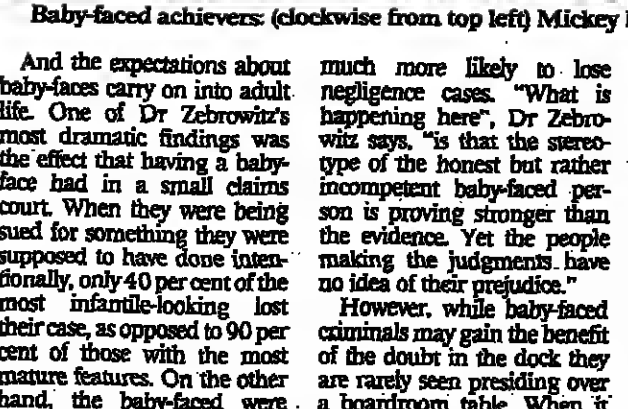
Dr Leslie Zebrowitz, a researcher at Brandeis University in Massachusetts, recently reported that people not only agree on who has a baby-face, but have very definite ideas about what baby-faces are like — and the stereotype stays the same for someone aged six or 60. "We are talking about largely unconscious attitudes here," Dr Zebrowitz says. "But they can have big effects on people's lives. For example, having a baby-face can affect the sort of job you'll get or how you will do in a court case."

About 15 per cent of the population is reckoned to be baby-faced to some degree. Fifty years ago, Konrad Lorenz, the ethologist, described how baby-like features made other animals behave in a protective rather than an aggressive way, and since then researchers have teased out what those features are in humans.

Large eyes are the most powerful indicator, but a flat bridge to the nose, small chin and plump cheeks all contribute to the effect. Why other babyish features — sparse, scrappy hair, puffy eyelids and a large forehead — are not equally moving to adults no one knows.

But putting on a baby-face is the goal of both female beauty routines and the designers of Mickey Mouse: both go for small noses, plucked eyebrows and big eyes. "I'm interested in the way social reactions are influenced by what people see," says Dr Zebrowitz, and in the case of baby-faces that influence starts early. Baby-faced children are treated differently from their classmates who look more mature. Parents and teachers expect the mature-looking six-year-olds to be more able to follow complicated instructions and to be better at telling right from wrong, so they are given harder tasks and stiffer punishments.

But the baby-faces do not have it all their own way. By the time they are 11 or so adults are so surprised and angry when their angel-faced charges do misbehave that they punish them more severely. Interestingly, the punishment effect only applies when fathers are punishing daughters or mothers punishing sons. It has been suggested that this may explain why baby-faced children are less likely to be physically abused.



Baby-faced achievers (clockwise from top left) Mickey Rooney; Kate Moss; Shirley Temple Black; Bill Clinton

turned into a cartoon, would definitely have a baby-face, which is perhaps one reason why he has not proved to be a sexual hit. Male baby-faces, according to one study, are rated as "dateable", but not marriageable.

What women find attractive, say the psychologists, is the combination of the warmth and friendliness of the baby-face — big eyes, for example — plus signs of sexual maturity and power — high cheekbones and a broad chin.

Men, on the other hand, do not want powerful women, and a billion pound cosmetics industry is eloquent testimony to the strong allure of a female baby-face. Women who are rated as unattractive are seen as being more powerful than moderate or highly attractive women: for men it is just the opposite. This does not mean that women with the mature features of high cheekbones or an angular face cannot be

**"You could say that baby-faced people suffer from job discrimination, like other minorities"**

attractive or that all baby-faces are attractive. It is just that a beautiful female baby-face does not suffer by being seen as less powerful.

The question no one can answer yet is whether baby-faces are likely to turn into their stereotypes. Are they more likely to be friendly and sincere, but rather naïve? There is some evidence that this does happen in children. The attractive ones benefit from what is called a "halo effect": they are expected to be popular and competent, they are less severely punished and teachers regularly predict they will do better than their less-attractive classmates. What has been found is that while there is no difference between pretty and the plain three-year-olds, by five the less attractive ones have begun to live down to their expectations.

So it is possible that baby-faces, by being set less demanding tasks, will actually be less bright but, because they are punished less, will regard the world as a kinder place. Dr Zebrowitz hopes to uncover some pointers in her next study. Meanwhile, the calculating baby-faces might find their face is their fortune if they keep out of the professions and go for a life of crime.

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Information supplied by Sid Hotfies



Who would print a transcript of an alleged conversation between the Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker-Bowles?

# First past the tape

**P**ublishers across the world are facing legal and ethical decisions about whether or not to publish the alleged telephone conversation between the Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker-Bowles. Yet in some countries there have been no such qualms. In Germany and Austria, for instance, transcripts of the tape are easily obtainable.

The Germany daily tabloid *Bild*, which has a circulation of around 4.5 million, said it printed "every single word", while other papers printed extracts. The full text could also be read in Austria today in the German popular weekly magazine, *Bunte*.

It would take a brave editor to publish a full tape transcript on the day that the *Calcut* report on privacy and the press is released by the government. So who in Britain will publish and who will not?

In Britain, the method used to obtain the recording is critical in deciding legality. Bugging telephone conversations intercepted on the public network is clearly illegal. A different piece of legislation, which covers mobile telephones (as in the "Parker-Bowles tape"), states that disclosure of information obtained by unauthorised means is also against the law.

Publication by newspapers and magazines of the contents of telephone calls obtained by any illegal bugging device is itself against the law. According to the voluntary newspaper code of practice, unauthorised intrusions into someone's privacy is only permitted in the public interest.

**K**elvin MacKenzie, editor of *The Sun*, would not comment but the paper issued a short statement yesterday: "At present we have no plans to publish a full transcript of the Camilla tapes. We believe we have already printed enough to alert the public to an issue which has far-reaching consequences."

In a leader headed "Why today we gag ourselves" the paper said: "We're worried that we are being set up. Being given enough rope to hang ourselves. Wouldn't the Establishment just love that? It is an appalling state of affairs for any newspaper. But the future over the *Calcut* report, which would shake the press, has reasons. There's not much that was left to the imagination in what we published."

**Arthur Browne**, the managing editor of the *Daily News*, a New York tabloid which printed part of the Camilla Parker-Bowles tapes: "I've seen the full transcript of the tapes from *New Idea* magazine. From a distance, there's a great interest in the royal family and their escapades, and it is not often you get to look at the intimate lives of such exalted persons. So we decided to publish. We took out some stuff strictly for taste



Front page news: after the Australian magazine *New Idea* (above) printed the full transcript of the tape recording, British editors have so far decided against publication

the law would prosecute the person who made the recording. The ambiguity is whether anyone using information on the tape could be sued.

"However we have not been prevented from publishing because we are frightened of the law. We just think our readers would not want us to do this. We are writing a leader exploring the difference between public interest and the interests of the public. There is a natural hypocrisy here, but for better or for worse we have decided not to publish the tape."

**Andrew Neil**, editor of *The Sunday Times*: "I will make a decision on whether or not to publish when I know whether or not daily newspapers are publishing the full transcript. If we do publish, some of the conversation will have to be in a sanitised form."

The whole thing is very messy and untidy. I remain uneasy because we are now back in the way things were in pre-Abdication days with a two-class information system. The London chattering classes have knowledge which the rest

of the country does not have. I think, too, we are to some extent back in the *Spycatcher* situation where the rest of the world can read what is happening but in Britain we can't. The whole position leaves me very apprehensive about press freedom."

**Donald Treford**, editor of *The Observer*: "I have read the magazine transcript and hope that by Sunday the full text will already have been published in Britain by someone else. I would rather not face the decision and will be relieved if somebody else takes it out of my hands."

**Patsy Chapman**, editor of *The News of the World*: "We would have published it. There are already a lot of faxes going round with the full text anyway and large chunks were read out on LBC. Why should some people know and others not? My young son heard it. You could tell they were more than just hunting and water-colouring friends. I think it's a bit academic now whether or not it should be published by a newspaper."

## BRITISH MAGAZINES

**K**ath McNeill, editor of *Woman's Own*, the woman's weekly magazine: "I have not read a full transcript, but it is now in the public domain there are many, many copies around on fax and on tape. What I have read is sexually explicit. I would think very long and very hard about publishing. I wouldn't be unhappy to do so. But there would be questions about where the tape came from."

**Dominie Lawson**, the editor of *The Spectator*, the weekly news magazine: "I have read the transcript but would not publish it. Firstly, it is an appalling invasion of privacy — really disgusting — if it is true. The tape could well be stolen, and one would be in severe danger of handling stolen goods. Particularly if they have come out of Special Branch hands. I am sure that the Wireless and Telegraph Act must have been broken as well."

**Jan Hislop**, the editor of *Private Eye* the satirical fortnightly magazine: "I have not heard the tape but have seen extracts of the transcript. I am not sure if I would publish. I would have to hear the tape first, hear the tone of voice, and ask if it is them? There is a problem with authenticity, but I don't mind the legal implications if it is true. I'd want to know just how unfunny that joke is."

**Maggie Goodman**, editor of *Hellot*, the weekly photo magazine: "I have not read the transcript but I would not publish it. It is just not the kind of thing we would do. It is a frightening thought that people cannot even make a phone call these days. I am lucky. I am not famous enough."

## AUSTRALIA

In Australia it is an offence under the Australia Telecommunications (Interception) Act for a person to intercept a communication passing over a telecommunication system within the country. It is also an offence to communicate to another person, make use of or make a recording of such a communication. Therefore, any communication made outside Australia would not be covered by the law.

**Sean O'Connor**, the night editor of *The Age*, Melbourne's eminently respectable and politically correct broadsheet: "I haven't heard the tapes. We're certainly running the story but we have edited the excerpts from *New Idea* as a matter of taste. We would never have run the lot."

The general feeling here is that it's intriguing and fascinating but, for the first time, things may have gone a little over the edge. I think people will be disappointed with the contents, all the grotty details of what Prince Charles said. "The thrust of our story is the fuss it's causing. The legal position here is that you have to get special permission through the courts to tape private conversations or have permission of the interviewee. Whether you can publish or not is a murky area."

**Chris Mitchell**, the editor of *The Australian*, a quality broadsheet and the country's sole national newspaper: "We've seen the transcript and are running small excerpts. Had we been offered it exclusively, we probably wouldn't have printed the whole for reasons of space and newsworthiness."

**John Whistler**, the night editor of the *Adelaide Advertiser*, a popular broadsheet: "I haven't heard the tape but we're running excerpts from the transcript, not the lot — some of it is a little too offensive."

**David Watts**, the night editor of the *middle-brow Western Australian*, Perth's only daily newspaper: "I've read the transcript but haven't heard the tape. Whether or not we would have run with the lot if we'd been offered it first is tricky. Our policy is to be all things to all people. I personally would have. We're giving the stories 15 or 16 paragraphs and using only four paragraphs from the tape. We've left out some of it, but we've got a poster out on it."

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## Philip Howard



■ It would be a harsh world if we always told the truth and never used euphemisms

What this government lacks, as well as elementary competence and style, is someone with a way with words. O for a bite of sharp-toothed rhetoric instead of timeshare-bustler's gush and blather. For instance, the trick with taxes is to put them up without the taxed nodding, or, as Louis XIV's finance minister put it, to pluck the most feathers from the geese with the minimum of hissing. It has become a jungle taboo for the right that direct taxes should ever be raised.

But with fiscal policy what comes down must sometimes go up. So, the ostive wordsmiths at the Treasury are exercised about what to call the increase in taxes needed to cut back the swelling public sector deficit. The trick would be to find a soothing name to call it that would not outrage the taxpayers. Politics is the art of euphemism and rhetoric, as well as the art of the possible. You could write a monograph on the history of taxation around the continual search for a friendlier name for the process of removing money from the citizens, who are always going to feel that their tax is as high as an elephant's eye, whether it is described as tariff, levy, duty, rate, indulgence, ship money or Peter's pence.

The community charge was an official euphemism that was trumped by the blunt precision of poll tax, a phrase that went back six centuries, when it had been equally effective at annoying the peasants of those days. VAT sounds as friendly as a brand of whisky, and national insurance contribution sounds like a voluntary charitable donation. In Athens of the golden age, the taxpayer saw the tax he got for his drachms by being made captain of a ship or producer of the tragedy he was paying for.

Taxpayers are not as bewildered as shorn sheep, and notice deductions from their pay packets, call them redistribution of wealth or whatever grand name you choose. A new gambit might be to avoid periphrasis and call it tax, in the romantic belief that voters are not as silly or as selfish as supposed. As the proverb says, tell the truth, but then leave immediately afterwards. It is the notion of leaving immediately afterwards that frightens the politicians.

It is easy to laugh at euphemism. A lot of it is prudery, hypocrisy and false refinement, such as makes us call a couch potato a television critic. As a young man, Winston Churchill was entertained at a buffet lunch, where rubber chicken was served. He went back for a second helping, and asked: "Can I please have some bread?" This was in the American Deep South, and the hostess was as shocked as the Victorian middle-class affected to be by any reference to bread. She said: "Mr Churchill, in this country we ask for white meat or dark meat." Churchill apologised profusely. The following morning, the lady received a magnificent orchid from her guest of honour. The accompanying card read: "I would be most obliged if you would pin this on your white meat." Churchill was, among other things, a master of euphemism, and the other tricks of the rhetoric game, which is politics.

The sack is another topic that we skirt delicately around, with euphemisms such as: "I am afraid we shall have to let you go." The BBC illustrated the verbal cosmetics when it stated that the proposals included "losing about 1,500 permanent and temporary posts". In this department of the great hypocrisy factory, a useful new tool is rationalisation, as in, "The number of employees has been rationalised." The result is the same, but a bit of euphemism saves face. "And so now they sacked you?" indignantly: "Who said they had?" "I thought you said something about being made redundant."

It would be a harsh world if everybody told the whole truth all the time, without the social politeness we use to cover up our inner shames and anxieties and feelings. The lingua non franca of euphemism is particularly favoured by governments and other institutions that court popularity, and try to present the handsomest possible images of themselves to the world. None of us could survive a day without euphemism. But we need to listen to politicians and read newspapers with narrowed eyes, on the lookout for the soothing soap.



## New age of the barbarian

The Bosnians believe that our inaction has allowed an act of tribal genocide to take place in the heart of Europe

Over Christmas I was asked by a group called Action for Bosnia — to which I am not connected — to host a dinner in January for some London political and diplomatic figures to meet Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian foreign minister. The dinner took place on Tuesday night, the evening of the apparent break-through at Geneva. There is still a long way to go before peace is achieved, as the loss yesterday of a British soldier shows. Mr Silajdzic arrived from Geneva on the late flight, and had just heard some of the latest news as he arrived at our house.

Mr Silajdzic is a young man, with intense dark looks. He leaves somewhat the same physical impression as David Owen, now Lord Owen, the co-chairman of the peace conference, did when he was a young foreign minister in the later 1970s. He is softly spoken, but there is an emotional charge to what he has to say that is entirely understandable. He is a spokesman for the terrible sufferings of his nation. The Foreign Office think that he is too emotional for a foreign minister. I think they are wrong: if the condition of Bosnia does not justify passionate feeling, what could?

Certainly what he has to say offers no comfort for Britain. He sees the war in Bosnia as caused by Serbian aggression, by the greater Serbian nationalism which turned first on Croatia and then on Bosnia, but he also intensely resents the failures of the West, of Europe, of the United Nations, and particularly of Britain.

He sees the UN policy of arms embargo as illegal and immoral, as refusing to allow an invaded country to buy equipment to defend itself against a fully armed aggressor, without stopping the aggression. He regards the repeated British declarations of non-intervention as having been an actual encouragement to the Serbian government. If we had nothing to say, he wishes we would have stayed silent. He also thinks that the British refusal to admit more than a handful of Bosnian refugees has been conspicuously mean.

We may be accustomed to thinking of the Bosnians as very unfortunate people whom we have been trying to help, both by supporting the UN relief effort and by sending and risking the lives of British troops. The Bosnians see the situation very differently. They see themselves as being attacked by the Serbs while the rest of the world has been largely

ignorant and indifferent; they consider that we have by our inaction allowed an act of tribal genocide to occur in the heart of Europe. Meeting Mr Silajdzic is like meeting a Czech official in the months after Munich; he feels that the people he represents have been betrayed.

He is less afraid of the immediate spread of the war into the rest of the Balkans, and more afraid it will prove the first of its kind in Europe as a whole, than I had expected. He does not think that peace in Bosnia, if it is achieved, will be followed by war in Kosovo. The Serbs already possess Kosovo. But he regards

William Rees-Mogg

Bosnia is one of the meeting places of European cultures. It is the point at which the Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Islamic traditions met and mixed. Historically Bosnia established a remarkable culture of coexistence, intermarriage and tolerance. In 1492, when the Jews were expelled from Spain, they were allowed into Bosnia — Henry VIII did not allow them into Britain. Understandably Mr Silajdzic resents the British view that Bosnia is a more or less uncivilised place "down there". Of course our diplomacy knew little of Bosnia; the embassy was in Belgrade, we did not even have a consulate in Sarajevo.

The breakdown of a multicultural society was accompanied, in his view, by a resurgence of primitivism, the hatred of the tribe for the nation, the hatred of the peasant for the city. "It really has been," he said to me, "like the barbarians at the gates of Rome." And there has also been the rewarding of calculated aggression, of a deliberate Serbian government policy of murder and terror. These three factors of tribalism, primitivism and aggression, he sees as being widely distributed in Europe and in what was the Soviet Union.

He is afraid that Bosnia could set a

pattern for other and similar disputes. Serbia is not, after all, a great power, and he does not regard the Serbs as being united behind the policy of aggression. It is 10 per cent who have caused the trouble. He does therefore want a Nuremberg process, to punish the criminals who are responsible for the deaths of 200,000 people in Bosnia, for the winter agony of 400,000 effective hostages in Sarajevo and for an even larger number of refugees.

For the present the peace process is going rather well. The Serbs have made some concessions, as have the Bosnians, and the scheme for a series of cantons in

Bosnia has been accepted in principle by both sides. There are however two important conditions which have not yet been met. The first, which he regards as absolutely essential, is to bring heavy weapons under UN control. He is not yet sure that the Serbs will agree to that, and he regards it as the touchstone of their sincerity. Without it, the war will go on.

The second point is that while the principle of cantons has been agreed, though reluctantly on both sides, the actual boundaries of the cantons have not. One map might produce a genuine cantonal Bosnia, but another could lead rapidly to partition, which might suit both the Serbs and the Croats. Agreement on the detail will be at least as important and at least as difficult as agreement in principle. Bosnia may be nearer peace than a week ago, but there are still critical negotiations ahead, which could easily fail.

One of the new pressures on the Serbs is the prospect of the Clinton inauguration. Mr Silajdzic has already had two conversations with the incoming vice-president, Al Gore, whom he found remarkably well-informed, a man of his own generation, easier for him to deal with than the men of President Bush's generation. Another pressure is that the UN mandate in Croatia ends in April.

Serbia might have to face war on two fronts, with the rearmend Croats seeking to regain Croatian territory, and the Bosnians seeking to regain Bosnian territory, and could also face stronger action from the United States, with a younger and more self-confident president.

In the meantime, the people of Sarajevo and other cities are dying from the winter, from malnutrition and from shells. Both the parents of one of our guests on Tuesday evening had died there within the last month from cold and hunger. The suffering is terrible, and it has been caused by deliberate military action, by the sending of death squads, by ethnic cleansing, by the use of rape as an instrument of state policy. No doubt there have also been Croatian and Bosnian atrocities, but they have been a reaction to a war of greater Serbian conquest pursued by means of terror.

This is the Bosnian case, and it commands widespread support in the outside world. Indeed Serbia is becoming dangerously isolated. The European Community blames Serbia for invading Croatia and Bosnia with Serbian troops and with heavy arms. The United States is moving towards a more interventionist attitude, which will reinforce what the United Nations is doing. The Islamic world has been shocked by the casualties and rapes inflicted on an Islamic community.

Only in Russia, among extreme nationalists, is there sympathy for the Serbian position. There are only ten million Serbs, roughly the population of Belgium. The creation of a greater Serbia, by fighting most of their neighbours and alienating most of the world, is a suicidal venture, destined to damage Serbia's own future.

Yet the war in Bosnia has shown how dangerous tribal ambitions and hatreds are, how quickly ancient feuds can be reignited, how weak the world order is. No one enjoying the peace of the rest of Europe can avoid feeling ashamed at what the people of Bosnia are suffering. A recession is one thing; death by freezing, by starving, by gunfire is quite another. The disaster of Bosnia, like the famine in Somalia, may be the reason why there will be more intervention in the new world. The major powers, and particularly the United States, will be determined that Bosnia shall not be repeated.

## Business as usual in Dublin

But Conor Cruise O'Brien warns of the violence ahead

Two things can safely be predicted about the Fianna Fail-Labour government formed in Dublin yesterday. It will last its full term of four to five years, and it will be securely dominated by Fianna Fail. Both the durability and the dominance will be due to one factor: now that it is in the coalition, Labour will be afraid to break it.

A poll published at the weekend showed that the Labour party leader, Dick Spring, is more popular than ever, at 60 per cent. That was the feature of the poll that attracted the most media attention. But the politicians are more interested in another poll finding, not much noticed by the media: 29 per cent of Labour supporters disapproved of the coalition. This suggests that, if Labour were to break with Fianna Fail and head for an early election, its representation in the new Dail would be reduced by about one third — from 33 to around 23.

On the other hand, if Labour stays the course, and is still allied to Fianna Fail when the general election comes round, it will benefit from Fianna Fail preferences under the Republic's system of proportional representation, and should end up in the high twenties. These things being so, the Fianna Fail-Labour alliance is likely to last into the next century.

The joint programme agreed between the two parties was Labour in rhetoric but will be worked in the spirit of Fianna Fail. The programme has a liberal ring promising removal of the constitutional ban on divorce, and the decriminalisation of homosexuality. However, doubts about the liberalism of the new government are prompted by the fact that Harry Whelahan, the attorney-general involved in the case of the 14-year-old rape victim, stays on in his job.

Labour's influence in the coalition government is weakened by Mr Spring's strange choice of portfolio. He could have had the department of finance; instead he has chosen foreign affairs. What good this choice does to the cause of Labour is not easy to discern. There was once, but no longer is, a significant difference between Labour and Fianna Fail over Northern Ireland. Labour, before Mr Spring (and in my own time, as Labour spokesman on Northern Ireland) was distinctly less nationalist than Fianna Fail, a difference symbolised by Labour's commitment to amend Articles 2 and 3 of the Republic's constitution (the Articles that implicitly lay claim to Northern Ireland). Mr Spring effectively buried that commitment.

He did so, characteristically, by reiterating it in a speech which then rejected all the customary nationalist objections to it, without attempting to answer any of them. That was the speech that put Labour on course towards coalition with Fianna Fail. Mr Spring will be indistinguishable from a Fianna Fail foreign minister.

The joint programme agreed between the two parties makes no mention of Articles 2 and 3, but expresses great eagerness for the resumption of the talks on the future of Northern Ireland. As there is no chance that Unionists will reach agreement with Dublin while Articles 2 and 3 remain unchanged, and no chance that this government will change them, the talks cannot possibly get anywhere. All the same, they will resume and proceed to go nowhere at great length, because the nationalist and unionist participants are both determined that the blame for the inevitable breakdown will fall on the other side.

On Northern Ireland the incoming government will take no new initiatives, but there may be developments which will compel it to react. Last year there was a shift in the pattern of violence in Northern Ireland — a shift which has attracted less attention, both in Britain and in the Republic, than it requires. For the first time since the Provisional IRA offensive campaign began in 1971, murders of Catholics by Protestants outnumbered murders of Protestants by Catholics. As a security source in Northern Ireland said last week: "It has been clear for some time that the loyalists are becoming more skilled, more competent, more determined and more ruthless." After some small fire-bombs had exploded inside the Republic before Christmas, a loyalist spokesman predicted: "1993 will be the year of the big bang."

From the point of view of citizens of the Republic, this may be the year in which political violence, as a matter of almost daily experience, ceases to be confined to "up there" and comes "down here". If so, it will not be long before the coalition government is using the machinery of the Anglo-Irish intergovernmental conference to demand the internment of paramilitaries in Northern Ireland.

I hope the British government will agree, provided that internment is simultaneously introduced in the Republic. Internment operated successfully on both sides of the border from 1957 to 1962, but has never done so since. It would give the security forces, both in Northern Ireland and in the Republic, a serious chance of defeating both sets of terrorists, instead of merely denying them victory.

None of that will happen, however, unless 1993 really is the year in which political violence moves from "up there" to "down here". Otherwise the endless futile quest for a non-existent political solution will continue and so also will the parallel tit-for-tat murder campaigns and other forms of atrocity.

## Just a small cheque

IN THIS age of chequebook journalism it is intriguing to ask just how much the government will end up paying to curb what it considers the wilder excesses of Fleet Street. But despite the fact that the Calcutt report is being funded by government money, the Department of National Heritage is remarkably coy about how much it is paying Sir David for his investigation into press conduct.

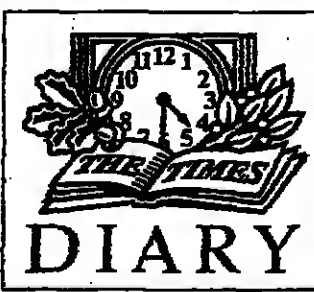
Sir David, who is reputed to earn more than £100,000 a year, has been working on his report since September last year. It follows the 1990 report of the Committee on Privacy of which Sir David was chairman. The cost of that report is buried deep in the Home Office accounts for 1991, but according to one member it could not have been much. "We met in a spartan room and ate sandwiches."

For its money this time round, the government gets a hard-hitting 70 pages. But how much money? A spokesman for the national heritage department says: "The cost of the whole exercise will not be known for some time. We will publish it in our accounts but I am not prepared to speculate on the cost." No matter how much he is

being paid, it must still have been somewhat daunting for the QC and Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge, to read in yesterday's newspapers that John Major had rejected the central plank of his report — a statutory press complaints tribunal headed by a judge with the power to impose heavy fines — before the rest of the world had even read it.

It is to be hoped that the market for heading government enquiries has not been affected by the recession to quite the same extent as the kiss-and-tell trade. Sally Ann Lawson is said to have been paid only £5,000 for her story of an alleged fling with Earl Spencer, the brother of the Princess of Wales. At the height of the boom she could have expected ten times that sum. These days a fling with a footballer can be worth only £500. Chequebook journalism may not be what it was, but Sir David should be reassured. If he ever wants to tell the full story of his fight with Lord McGregor there should be no shortage of lucrative offers.

As fax machines between Sydney and London went into overdrive yesterday, the royal family was also the hot topic among finan-



cial and monetary officials attending a G7 council meeting in Frankfurt. At a drinks party attended by both Sir Terence Burns, permanent secretary of the Treasury, and George Soros, whose Quantum Fund made billions betting against the pound on Black Wednesday, Soros was overheard admitting: "A few years ago Her Majesty bought a large holding in the Quantum Fund." Whether the Queen had retained her stake, thereby profiting from the Treasury's very public humbling, Mr Soros was too discreet to say.

### Lateral thinking

MATCHING film premieres to the appropriate charity — Indochina to Amnesty International, Christopher Columbus to the York Archaeological Trust — has advanced several steps lateral-

ly with the news that the Terrence Higgins Trust is to benefit from the premiere of Bram Stoker's Dracula.

The film, directed by Francis Ford Coppola, will premiere at the Odeon Leicester Square, London, on January 24 to an audience including Phil Collins, Bryan Ferry, Bob Geldof and Ned Sherrin. The Trust hopes to raise £20,000 from the sale of tickets to mark its tenth anniversary year.

Daryl Upstill, in charge of the Trust's fundraising, rebuffs ideas that the film's subject is a shade too gory to sit comfortably with the charity's aims. "At the time that Dracula was written, there was a lot of concern about sexually transmitted diseases. The film deals with passion and the transfer of blood turning a person into a vam-



### Bracing invitation

Albert Roux, patron of Le Gavroche, is in generous mood. On Tuesday in his new gastronomic agony column in London's Evening Standard he was asked by a Mrs Walters what she should do with two unplucked pheasants and an unskinned hare. Roux's reply was, as they say, extremely well served. "My love, bring them to Gavroche at 3pm, then go shopping, take a bath, make yourself even more beautiful and return at 7.30pm, in time for pre-dinner drinks."

Roux insists that he stands by his offer. But it does not extend to just anyone who arrives at his restaurant clutching a brace of assorted game. "Obviously women are more welcome than men, and whether the meal would be free depends on how beautiful she is." Truly, these are difficult times for husbands.

### Winds of change

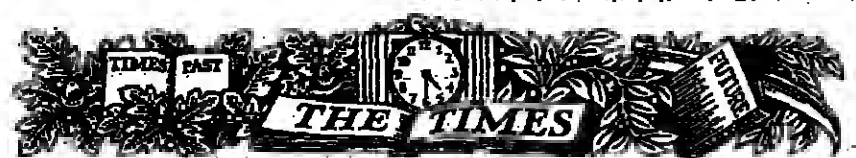
HIV infection and Aids are primarily transmitted sexually. There are a lot of parallels.

VIRGINIA Bottomley's much vaunted public consultation exercise over the Tomlinson report on the future of London's hospitals, hardly seems worth the paper it is written on. Bottomley, pictured on the front cover of the first issue of London Health, writes: "You can be sure that we are listening to what you have to say. Your input will help us to get it right." But someone has already got it wrong. The newsletter, which highlights Tomlinson's main points,

omits from its list and map of London hospitals both the Royal Marsden and Royal Brompton. Both, by coincidence of course, are on the Tomlinson hit-list.

Lord Stockton, the son of Harold Macmillan, who is presenting a 500,000-name petition to John Major at Downing Street today, is not impressed with the conspicuous omissions. Stockton, the main champion of the hospitals, says: "It is very sad if Virginia, of all members of the government, is trying to show that she is tougher than the rest of them." A spokesman for the health department says: "Nothing should be drawn from this." Pity nothing was drawn.





## FIRST WARNING

Iraq has been administered a spanking, not a beating

President Saddam Hussein deliberately and systematically provoked the renewed allied military action, launched over southern Iraq as night fell in the Gulf. If he intended no more than an escalation of Iraq's brinkmanship, a challenge on only one front would have sufficed. If he so misread American politics as to believe that he could exploit the interregnum between presidents Bush and Clinton to induce a relaxation of UN sanctions against Iraq, he should have been disabused some time ago by the careful dovetailing of their statements on the Gulf.

He miscalculated equally, if he intended a showdown with America, rather than the United Nations. By trumpeting its intention that Kuwait should "return to Iraq in defiance of the United Nations Security Council and America" yesterday, Iraq should once again have helped unite Arabs who were tempted to question the wisdom of allied military retaliation. Even more than Iraq's prohibited missile deployments, obstruction of UN inspections and repeated cross-border raids into Kuwaiti territory, this repeated claim to the emirate underlines the degree to which Iraq continues to be "a threat to international peace and security" in the terms of the UN Charter. Until Saddam renounces all claim to Kuwait, the Gulf war cannot be said to be over.

As the White House acknowledged, yesterday's action — confined to removing the threat to coalition aircraft policing the exclusion zone in southern Iraq — may not achieve the purpose of compelling Iraqi obedience to UN demands. Force, the only language Saddam understands, has been used with extreme discretion. It is unlikely severely to weaken his position. Iraq's people, trapped in a ruthless police state, are powerless. Saddam's cronies and senior military commanders must be convinced that Saddam's policy of continued confrontation carries intolerable costs.

There is a genuine risk that yesterday's military response will instead persuade them that the allies' bite is weak, justifying Saddam in his willingness to play Russian roulette. Ordinary Iraqis may, as Saddam hoped, be diverted from thinking about their desperate domestic situation as the second anniversary of the allied counter-attack to drive Iraq from Kuwait looms. The allied aim must be more ambitious: to undermine Saddam's personal responsibility for his people's hardship.

This is no easy mission. Targets have to be selected with careful regard to civilian casualties. Yet the allies are aware that the destruction of a few elderly surface-to-air missile and radar systems in southern Iraq, the targets of last night's raid, will not cause Saddam or his commanders much loss of sleep. Iraq's military capability, still formidable despite the losses of the Gulf war, is barely affected by such pinpricks.

Within hours of the start of the allied operation Nizar Hamdoun, Iraq's envoy to the UN, said he had notified the president of the security council that Iraq would cease its incursions into Kuwait and would allow UN aircraft to fly its inspectors into Iraq. That is necessary but not sufficient to avert further allied military action. Before, during and after the Gulf war, Saddam attempted to divide the coalition by selective offers. What is required is meticulous and unconditional Iraqi compliance with every detail of all UN resolutions, without distinction.

A limited strike, a spanking rather than a beating, can be effective only as part of a new allied strategy of graduated military responses, clearly understood as such in Baghdad. In the wake of yesterday's raid, the White House announced the dispatch of American reinforcements to the Gulf. They may have to be used, more forcefully and without warning, Saddam has no record of responding to symbolic gestures.

## TWO BUDGET YEAR

Consolidate the recovery in the March Budget

Deficits concentrate the mind. Treasury ministers were concentrating fiercely over the weekend about whether tax increases were necessary to bridge the gap between government revenue and spending. Yesterday a Treasury select committee report, critical of government economic policy, said taxes may have to rise unless Treasury forecasts of growth prove over-optimistic.

They will almost certainly have to rise if the economy grows only by the projected 1 per cent this year. John Major is right in claiming that much of the deficit is cyclical — that is, caused by the recession. But he is wrong in believing that a recovery will therefore automatically shrink the deficit back to an acceptable size. The longer the recession lingers, the more the cyclical elements of the deficit turn into structural ones. Several factors ensure that what happens to revenue and spending in recovery is no mirror image of what happens in recession. The wider the deficit, the larger is the accumulation of national debt. So future deficits will be enlarged by the interest payments due on debt taken out now. Then there is unemployment. In the recession of the early-1980s, though recovery began in 1982, unemployment did not start to fall until 1986, and that was after faster growth than is predicted this time. So spending on unemployment benefit will remain high.

Finally corporation tax receipts will take a long time to bounce back to pre-recession levels. Those companies that have gone bust will not recover, and the new businesses that spring up will take some years to be profitable enough to pay tax. So growth

alone will not rid the government of its deficit or even bring it back to affordable levels. But nor will tax increases alone. Indeed in the short run, they would actually slow down recovery and possibly even worsen the deficit. While Mr Major's analysis may be faulty, his prescription — that taxes should not rise yet — is right.

Recovery in Britain is still too tentative to risk a tax increase. Twice before in this recession, signs of growth have appeared, and both times they have quickly evaporated because people have decided to pay off debt rather than spend money on consumption. The recent, fragile improvement in the economy could be dashed by a tax increase.

Timing is all. In the short term, the government needs to accelerate the process of recovery while recognising that eventually it will need to raise taxes and cut public spending further. To promote non-inflationary growth, the kick-start has to come now, with the reining-in later as inflationary pressures build up.

To make significant inroads into public spending, public-sector pay must be restrained and hitherto sacred government expenditure reconsidered. In that list could be included the taxation or targeting of universal benefits, cuts in defence spending, and the phasing-out of mortgage interest tax relief. Meanwhile the government is fortunate that there will be two budgets this year. They can be used to different ends. The March Budget should be aimed at consolidating the recovery so that the December Budget could more safely concern itself with tax rises and public spending cuts.

It is a useful subject and a valuable discipline. We do not suggest that every child should learn Latin but it should be available, as should a second European language and, indeed, science taught as separate subjects rather than as one.

We are often told that the national curriculum does not allow sufficient time in the school day. This is rubbish. If we are to attract pupils to our schools, we must offer the fullest choice. Only then will we truly stretch the intellect of the more able students as well as obtaining the best from the less able.

If this results in a longer school day, so be it.

Yours faithfully,  
MERRICK COCKELL (Chairman),  
Education and Libraries Committee,  
The Town Hall, Kensington, W8.  
January 11.

## A free press, personal privacy and statutory controls

From Mr Quentin Crewe

Sir, William Rees-Mogg's reasoned article about press intrusion (January 11) reminded me of an occasion when I was working for the *Sunday Mirror*. Soon after a royal wedding, a photographer brought in photographs, taken with a long lens, of the couple making love in some bushes. The thought of publishing the photographs never crossed the editor's mind. Nor would any other editor touch them.

I have no doubt that, today, several editors would put the pictures on the front page. The rules have changed, just as they have changed about truth. Last weekend produced a spate of lies or, at best, half-truths about the royal family that were later exposed as nonsense. It is not altogether surprising that members of the royal family may have adopted unsatisfactory methods, as revealed by Lord McGregor's letter, to cope with the squalid, mendacious bullying that has become commonplace.

The answer to the changing of the rules by the press, anyhow in royal matters, is not for a lot of dangerous limitations to be put upon newspapers, but for the royal family to change their role.

There is no point in their trying to influence the press by planting stories, nor in their maintaining a supposedly dignified stance of silence. The law is available to them as it is to everybody. If what is printed is untrue, they should sue. They would win. The bullies would collapse. The public's admiration for a show of royal courage would restore much of the respect for monarchy that has been lost through muddled efforts to appease and persuade, or through too much politeness.

Yours faithfully,  
QUENTIN CREWE,  
11 Elizabeth Court,  
Milman's Street, SW10.  
January 12.

From Mr Richard Myers

Sir, It is not the press which has been manipulated by the Prince and Princess of Wales (report, January 13) but the public. Journalists presumably know what is happening when they receive a tip-off and could inform the public if they wished. The newspapers involved have therefore connived at the manipulation.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD MYERS,  
11 Montague Road, SW20.  
January 13.

From Mr Richard Stott

Sir, What a wonderful time for conspiracy theorists! Now even *The Times* is at it. Today you state with absolute assurance that the Prince

Charles/Camilla Parker-Bowles taped telephone conversation was leaked to the *Daily Mirror* "by the Princess's friends".

Nothing so exotic. Nor does it fit so neatly into the timetable expounded by *The Times* today.

The *Mirror* had had the tape for almost three months before publication. It was offered to us at one of our branch offices and it was recorded by a very ordinary member of the public.

If you're looking for a plot you won't find it here. It's back to the drawing board, I'm afraid.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD STOTT,  
1985-9 and 1991-2,  
20 Albany Park Road,  
Kington upon Thames, Surrey.  
January 13.

From Dr John D. Baston

Sir, I would protest most strongly at any attempt to limit the freedom of the press. The powerful and the privileged should not be allowed to manipulate the ordinary citizen by censorship.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN D. BASTON,  
Farthing, Whiteparish,  
Salisbury, Wiltshire.  
January 12.

From Mr A. T. Hoollahan, QC

Sir, Lord Rees-Mogg writes that there are three criteria proposed by Sir David Calcutt in relation to intrusive photography: that the picture is unauthorised, that it is taken on private property and in Britain.

But if an action for invasion of privacy were available here, such an action could be instituted here even if the act were committed abroad, provided that the defendant was within the jurisdiction and that the act constituted the invasion of privacy was actionable under the law of the foreign country (it is actionable, for example, in France). Since most of the present public concern does in fact arise out of invasions of privacy, it is difficult to understand why such an action is not introduced in this country.

Yours faithfully,  
A. T. HOOLAHAN,  
Fair Lawn, Ormond Avenue,  
Richmond, Surrey.  
January 12.

From Mr John A. Collard

Sir, Why should Lord Rees-Mogg assume that defining the criteria of a breach in any future law affecting intrusive photography should be beyond the wit of the parliamentary draftsman?

What makes him think that bug-

ging by the state for reasons of national security could excuse bugging for commercial reward?

Why should he attribute the taping of royal conversations to M15 when not even the type of telephone used is known?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN A. COLLARD,  
16 Watchbell Street, Rye, East Sussex.  
January 12.

From Mr Denis Meehan

Sir, Regrettably, it looks as if you may be right (leading article, January 13) and that "laws to protect privacy are much less likely now". The views of the legal establishment, which you report on the same day, are particularly significant: they seem to be unanimous that the most that should be attempted by way of reform is the creation of a tort of privacy.

This would of course suit members of the establishment (and rich villains) very well indeed; they will be able to afford the substantial cost of funding a civil action for invasion of privacy just as they can now afford the cost of libel actions. Either way, they will continue to use their wealth and influence to suppress news about themselves which may or may not be of public interest.

"Ordinary" members of the public who lack such wealth and influence will continue with impunity to be libelled and psychologically damaged in the pursuit of increased circulation and profits.

The way forward, I suggest, is not the creation of a tort of privacy nor the establishment of a statutory press tribunal, which would inevitably be regarded as an arm of the government of the day, but the enactment of a criminal offence of invasion of privacy, punishable in the extreme by imprisonment, but subject to a public-interest defence.

Forget the Prince and Princess of Wales — they can look after themselves. Consider the real victims.

Yours faithfully,  
DENIS MEEHAN,  
238 Upper Richmond Road,  
Putney, SW15.  
January 13.

From His Honour David Wild

Sir, The press must make up its mind. In libel cases it seeks the protection of judges against the alleged excesses of jury awards. But when it comes to controlling its own excesses the judges are "clapped-out", according to the editor of *The Sun* (report, January 11; letter, January 12).

Yours etc,  
DAVID WILD,  
The Saville Club, 69 Brook Street, W1.  
January 12.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER LONGMAN,  
Director,  
Museums & Galleries Commission,  
16 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.  
January 6.

## Museums policy

From the Director of the Museums & Galleries Commission

Sir, I agree with your leader about museums and galleries (January 5) that the creation of a Department of National Heritage provides the opportunity for the government to set out a national policy on museums.

However, the government should be mindful of the experience of other countries, where over-rigid classification and central control can all too easily stifle the flexibility and initiative which are the hallmarks of our best museums.

As the government's adviser, the Museums & Galleries Commission looks forward to assisting in the formulation of a national policy; our recent special report, *Museums Matter*, set out our view of the main

priorities. We need to ensure that money going into museums is spent to good effect and to concentrate on looking after what we already have, rather than creating new museums.

An agreed policy framework would reduce the need for crises to be dealt with on an ad hoc basis, and help make optimum use of the new, but still limited, funds expected from the national lottery.

Securing the future of internationally important collections through endowments from the national lottery would be an imaginative and decisive step, for which our children and grandchildren would thank us.

## Lower fees for girls

From Miss Ann Parkin

Sir, In determining why the fees at boys' schools are higher than those at comparable girls' schools (Education, January 11), there are two aspects to consider. Funding the resources needed is one issue; how the resources are managed is the other.

Research evidence clearly shows that many girls do succeed better in single-sex schools. As Anthea Saxon states, girls-only schools dominate the league tables. The recent HMI report on the preparation of girls for adult life emphasises the important contribution made by girls' schools in building the self-esteem and confidence of girls and comments favourably on the richness of the

education provision in these schools. Proven success — and for lower fees!

I contend this is done through prudent use of resources. It would certainly not be possible with a mean and "penny-pinching" approach.

It would be strange if the number of girls in schools in the Headmasters' Conference and the Society of Headmistresses and Headmistresses of Independent Schools did not show an increase; many of these schools are in the transition process of becoming co-educational, so the number of girls ought to be increasing as the year-by-year intake of girls grows.

Yours faithfully,  
ANN PARKIN  
(General Secretary),  
Girls' Schools Association,  
130 Regent Road, Leicester.

## Plea-bargaining

From the Director of Victim Support

Sir, The question of plea-bargaining being considered by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice (report, January 2) is of interest to victims of crime as well as to offenders. As we have said in evidence to the commission, Victim Support receives frequent complaints that victims who have suffered a serious offence are distressed when the offender is convicted on a lesser charge, to which he has pleaded guilty.

Many victims would prefer the seriousness of the offence against them to be recognised by a plea of guilty to the full charge. A guilty plea could be recognised in the sentence, but it should not reduce the gravity of the offence as described in the charge. Any discount in sentence should be

diminished for a last-minute plea of guilty, which leaves the victim anxiously awaiting the ordeal of giving evidence until just before the trial.

Yours sincerely,  
HELEN REEVES,  
Director, Victim Support,  
Granmer House,  
39 Brixton Road, SW9.  
January 4.

From Mr Alexander McCulloch

Sir, Your report indicates that the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice is to back a formal system of plea-bargaining in which the judge will tell the defendant his likely sentence discount if he pleaded guilty.

As a defence solicitor I routinely advise clients, first at the police station before interview, and then over the lengthy period leading to trial, of the potential benefit of a guilty plea in

sentencing terms. In my view, therefore, a "sentence enquiry" stage, as apparently envisaged, would add nothing to advice which, in appropriate cases, defendants should already be receiving from their lawyers long before trial.

Yours sincerely,  
A. S. MCCULLOCH,  
McCullochs (Solicitors),  
St Andrews House,  
26 Brighton Road,  
Crawley, West Sussex.  
January 4.

Business letters, page 27  
Sports letters, page 39

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

## Steps to revive the housing market

From Professor Emeritus Colin Harbury

Sir, Many people must welcome pressures to encourage the rental housing market (letters, January 4). However, the focus has been on the abolition of mortgage interest relief, while there is a different and much neglected subsidy which deserves attention. This is capital gains tax exemption for owner-occupiers; and it is quite as distortive in its effects.

There is a special case for abolishing the exemption. House owners are experiencing capital losses, not gains, anyway. Indeed, if the government were brave enough to act immediately, and allow capital losses to be offset against other income, there could be an important and significant side-effect, which might even supply the kick-start for the economy that everyone is looking for.

Since 1988-9 capital gains tax has been treated as a branch of income tax. Why not go the whole hog and remove the distortion completely? The downward trend in house prices must be partly due to potential buyers fearing the trend will continue. If they were allowed to offset capital losses against other income the market might pick up (when, incidentally, the cost to the Exchequer would be minimal).

Yours faithfully,  
C. D. HARBURY,  
Bridge House, Pakenham,  
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.  
January 4.

From Mr J. F. M. Pickthorn

Sir, Your report (January 7) that the prime minister is considering cash help for first-time buyers is surprising. The obvious lesson of the present housing debt problem is that encouraging people artificially to take on debt to buy their house is unwise.

At Christmas Sir George Young, Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, suggested (report, December 28) expanding the rented sector, which would obviously be much more appropriate to meeting current housing needs. Does the right arm connect to the left?

Yours faithfully,  
J. F. M. PICKTHORN,  
45 Ringmer Avenue, SW6.  
January 8.

From Mr Adrian Cosker

Sir, You report that the government is thinking about giving grants to first-time house buyers. Unless a scheme is introduced with great rapidity, or it is announced that any such scheme will operate retrospectively, this will probably only make matters worse in the short term, because speculation about it will have the effect of causing those who might be about to buy to delay further for fear of losing out, just as they have been delaying up to now in anticipation of ever-lower prices.

Yours faithfully,  
ADRIAN COSKER  
(Head of Economics),  
The Knights Templar School,  
Park Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire.  
January 7.

From Mr Eric Rottley

Sir, In looking at the ways of reviving the housing market, the priority and moral responsibility should be to assist the first-time buyer now trapped in property worth less than the mortgage.

Cash assistance for those unfortunate who cannot afford to move would probably kick-start the housing market better and release affordable housing to a new wave of first-time buyers, who should not be encouraged to take on debt they cannot afford.

Yours sincerely,  
ERIC ROTTLEY,  
Beecroft, 59 Botley Road,  
Chesham, Buckinghamshire.  
January 8.

## Normal service

From Mr John Hince

Sir, Not every BR station had as straightforward a week between Christmas and New Year as Filwick (letter, January 9). At Hassocks, the station car park is free on Saturdays and Sundays. Although the train service offered on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday after Christmas was a Saturday service, in the car park these were weekdays and the usual daily fee of £1.50 was charged!

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN HINCE,  
12 West Street, Ditchling, Sussex.

## Picky eaters

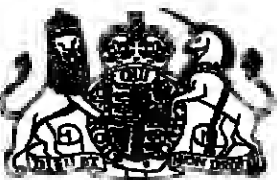
From Mr J. D. Pullan

Sir, Over Christmas I have as usual been eating tins of biscuits and boxes of chocolates. No matter who helps me, it is always the same biscuits and chocolates that are unpopular and are left uneaten.

Do the manufacturers have a Victorian attitude that one must have something nasty with something nice? Or have they never bothered to find out that some of their products are so boring that nobody likes them?

Yours faithfully,  
J. D. PULLAN,  
32 Twailling Road,  
Barnt Green, Worcestershire.  
January 11.





## COURT CIRCULAR

## SANDRINGHAM

January 13: The Duke of Edinburgh, International President, WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature, and the Prince of Wales today visited Sandringham and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Shetland (Mr Magnus Shearer).

Their Royal Highnesses were briefed on and viewed the work being undertaken to combat the oil spillage from the *Brer* and held discussions on the effect on the island with leaders of the community and other organisations.

Mr Hugh Merrill was in attendance.

## BUCKINGHAM PALACE

January 13: The Prince Edward, President, the Lord's Taverners, this evening attended the Umpires' Dinner, the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, London W1.

Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

## KENSINGTON PALACE

January 13: The Princess of Wales today visited Preston and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant.

## LIEUTENANT FOR LANCASHIRE (Mr Simon Townley)

Her Royal Highness this morning visited St Catherine's Hospice, Lostock Hall, The Princess of Wales afterwards visited Leyland DAF Limited, Leyland Assembly Plant, Leyland.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon opened the Magnetic Resonance Imaging Unit, Royal Preston Hospital, Sharpe Green Lane, Fulwood. Mrs James Lonsdale and Captain Edward Musto RM were in attendance.

## The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior, Order of St John, this afternoon conducted an Investiture of Lord Remnant as Bailiff Grand Cross, and subsequently installed Lord Remnant as Bailiff of Egle at the Grand Priory Church, Clarendon, London EC1. Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

## YORK HOUSE

January 13: The Duchess of Kent, Patron, this afternoon visited Helen House Hospice, 37 Leopold Street, Oxford. Mrs Julian Tomkins was in attendance.

## Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal will open the national conference on the Project for the Refugee Communities in Birmingham at Birmingham College of Further Education, Bristol Road, South Birmingham, at 10.30; will open the new development at New Cross Hospital site, Wolverhampton, at 1.50; and will visit the Edward Street Hospital for the Elderly at Sandwell at 12.40.

The Duke of Kent, as Patron of the Institute of Export, will open the Europe Day conference at the Camo Hall, Liverpool University, at 10.55; will visit the new school of health science, within the faculty of medicine at 11.50; will open the Peter Moores' wing of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society's Hall at 12.50; and will visit Seymour Terrace office development, Liverpool, at 2.25. Later he will attend the Michael Faraday lecture at the Royal Society at 5.30.

## Memorial Service

Professor H.L.A. Hart  
A memorial ceremony in honour of Herbert Hart will be held in the Examination Schools, Oxford, on Saturday, February 6, at 2.30pm.

## School announcement

**Windsor House**  
Charles and Elizabeth Ann Malden will retire in April 1994 from Windsor House and the Governors are pleased to announce the appointment, as Joint Heads, from the Summer Term 1994, of Ian and Margaret Angus.

Ian Angus is Headmaster of Orwell Park, Ipswich, Suffolk, and his wife, Margaret, was formerly Headmistress of St Felix, Southwold, Suffolk.

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## Forthcoming marriages

Mr B.W.F. Adeney and Miss S.L. Rabin

The engagement is announced between Benjamin William Field, son of Mr and Mrs Robin Adeney, of Blandford, Dorset, and Sara Louise, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian D. Rabin, of Emsworth, Devon.

Mr C.E.H. Alcock and Miss M.L. Boselli

The engagement is announced between Charles Edward Hayes, son of Major and Mrs Dennis Alcock, of Great Cheverell, Wiltshire, and Maria Lisa (Maria), eldest daughter of Professor and Mrs Carlo Boselli, of Gibraltar.

Mr J.R.M. Anderson and Miss A.K. Genske

The engagement is announced between Justin, son of Mr Michael Anderson, of Dorset, and Mrs David Part, of London, and daughter of Mr William Genske, of Marbella, and Mrs Jenny Williams, of Alhaurin El Grande, Spain.

Mr M. Aristoteles and Miss E.C. Haines

The engagement is announced between Marco, second son of Mr and Mrs C. Aristoteles, of London, and Emily, youngest daughter of Dr A.J. Haines, also of London and the late Pamela Haines.

Mr J.P. Bailey and Miss J.E. Macdonald

The engagement is announced between Jeremy, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Bailey, of Combe Down, Bath, and Jane, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Macdonald, of Solihull, West Midlands.

Captain T.W. Gray and Miss A.C. John

The engagement is announced between Toby William Gray, Goldstream Guards younger son of Mr Gilbert Gray, QC, and Miss A.C. John, of Leighton, North Yorkshire, and Andrea Corinne, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Philip John, of Juniper Green, Edinburgh.

Mr A.D.J.R. Collins and Miss C.M. Braine

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Mr M.P. Riley and Miss J.L. McNair

The engagement is announced between Meredith, son of Mr John Riley and the late Mrs Lorna Riley, of Little Kingshill, Buckinghamshire, and Joanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert McNair, of Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Mr M.J.A. Bacon and Miss J.M. Mialon

The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Frank Bacon, of Tumbidge Wells, and Jennifer, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs George Mialon, of Tilford, Surrey.

Mr C.N.B. Brown and Miss L.J. Roseora

The engagement is announced between Christopher, eldest son of Mr and Mrs F.E.B. Brown, of Oxford, and Laraine, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Roseora, of Bermuda.

Mr A.R. Davidson and Miss J.L. Mercer

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Davidson, of Abingdon, Oxon, and Joanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Mercer, of Arundel, West Sussex.

Mr H. Fox and Miss A.M. Fairbairn

The engagement is announced between Harry Fox, of St John's Wood Park, London, and Anne Fairbairn, of Coburg Close, London.

Mr A.F.S. Haynes and Miss E.E. Bridgman

The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Mr and Mrs Norman Haynes, of London, SW6, and Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Bridgman, of Meopham, Kent.

Mr R.P.T. Howe and Miss R. Albano

The engagement is announced between Robert, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Colin Howe, of Ross, and daughter of Mr and Mrs Archangelo Albano, of Hamilton, Canada.

Mr C.R.M. Luff and Miss C.S. Desai

The engagement is announced between Charles, only son of Mr and Mrs R.C.M. Luff, of Alkali, Spain, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs K.T. Desai, of Guildford.

Mr J.D.G. Morris and Miss C.E.J. Sykes

The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Morris, of Sherborne, Dorset, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Allen Sykes, of Farnham, Surrey.

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Mr T.R. Hall and Miss G.L. Gardiner

The engagement is announced between Thomas Richard, son of Mr Christopher Hall and the late Mrs Cecilia Hall, of London, and Gillian Louise, daughter of Dr Douglas Gardiner and Mrs Helen Sciba and stepdaughter of Mr Robert Sciba, of London.

Lieutenant W.M.A. Moore and Miss C.L. James

The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Warwick Moore, The Blues and Royals, son of Mr and Mrs A.H.P. Moore, of West Chichester, West Sussex, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.P. James, of Wimborne, Dorset.

Mr G.C.G. Neville and Miss D.M. Nuthall

The engagement is announced between Giles, younger son of Air Commodore and Mrs Christopher Neville, of Ottery St Mary, Devon, and Daniela, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Trevor Nuthall, of Binalong, New South Wales, Australia.

Mr R.A. Newman and Miss G. G. G. G. G.

The engagement is announced between Robert Alistair, elder son of Mr and Mrs Alistair Newman, of Sutton Green, Guildford, and Georgina Lucinda Gordon, daughter of Lord and Lady Cato, of M. Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire.

Mr D.W. Roberts and Miss T.J. Charlton-Jones

The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Roberts, of Millfields House, Chevington, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, and Tiffany, only daughter of Mr and Mrs B.C. Charlton-Jones, of Park Gate House, Wickham, Hampshire, Newmarket, Suffolk.

Mr T.N. Radd and Miss D.E. Spill

The engagement is announced between Timothy Nigel, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A.N.R. Radd, of Shirley House, Shirley, Derbyshire, and Dawn-Elizabeth, only daughter of the late Mr J.C. Robinson and of Mrs Victoria Anne Sims-Pearce, of "Little Crab", Sutton Veny, Wiltshire.





could 'claim eminence' as a lawyer, and was also a populariser of legal theory and informal consultant to the first Labour government of Harold Wilson. In this last capacity he was an adviser on the passage of the Rent Act of 1968, which was designed to prevent the abuses of the rental market which had been so scandalously exposed in the 1950s and early 1960s.

Alpine hamlet followed. The communist newspaper *L'Humanité* found the village "the epitome of the working class." It was insisted to his wife that she should leave him and that his children should not continue to bear a name which was held in abhorrence by true communists everywhere. When the party relented, it was no consolation to him. The wounds were too deep. It may be, too, that in the intervening years, he had become sickened by the party's hardening of the arteries, by its consistent refusal to humanise itself in line with other European Communist parties. Certainly its failure to influence events through its Czechoslovak proxy state was a source of deep disillusionment to him. The Soviet rape of Prague in 1968 was the final straw. The French party continued to mouth the Moscow line and Tillon rounded on it in terms of bitter scorn. His published manifesto: "It is no longer possible to remain silent", criticising the whole range of party operations, ensured his expulsion from the party in 1970.

Thereafter he lived quietly. Though no longer permitted to be a member of the party, he continued to think along socialist lines and published a book describing the relationship between the worker and the French republic in 1982.

A book describing the wartime campaigns of the *Francs-Tireurs et Partisans*, entitled, simply, *Les FTP*, had appeared in 1963. An interesting, if hectic, document it gives insight into the manner in which this, in some ways touchingly innocent man, fought for the creed which eventually repudiated him.

In the meantime, Lloyd's talents and liberalistic political philosophy had brought him to the notice of the Labour leadership which came to power in 1964 and he was an informal adviser to the then housing minister, Richard Crossman. His services on the Rent Bill earned him a life peerage in 1965. He also served on the committee which recommended the abolition of censorship of plays and as a member of the select committee on the Bill of Rights. He opposed incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into British law, feeling that such rights were already better guaranteed under the British system than they would be under the modified systems of the other countries of the Council of Europe.

Entertainment was another strong interest and he chaired the committee which planned the National Film School in the 1960s. His report bore fruit in the establishment of the school at Beaconsfield in 1971. He was chairman of the British Film Institute, 1973-76.

He is survived by his wife Ruth and by two daughters.

**FAX: 071 481 9313**

**FLIGHTS**

<b>CLARK</b> First & Economy, Direct Committed fares 02161 5533	<b>TDW</b> First, Economy 02161 5533
<b>FLY</b> First & Economy, Direct Committed fares 02161 5533	<b>AVIA</b> First, Economy 02161 5533

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MENTAL INESS**


*Help find a cure*

The Mental Health Foundation is a charity which helps the Government and the public to understand mental illness, its causes and its treatment. We are now looking for people to help us in our work.

Please give what you can - small contributions help. We are looking for people to help us in our work.

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## Allies bomb Saddam's missiles

Warplanes from America, Britain and France bombed Iraqi missile sites in retaliation for President Saddam Hussein's persistent violations of UN resolutions.

Dozens of aircraft, including six British Tornados, took part to deal Saddam "a short, sharp and telling lesson". Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman, said that all the planes returned to their bases. Pages 1, 2, 3

## British soldier killed in Bosnia

Lance Corporal Wayne John Edwards became the first British soldier to die in Bosnia when the Warrior armoured vehicle he was driving while escorting an ambulance was hit by small arms fire. The corporal, 26, of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, who came from Wrexham, north Wales, died in the central Bosnian town of Gornji Vakuf. Pages 1, 14

## Referendum debate

Parliament is to debate whether to hold a referendum on the Maastricht Treaty, giving Euro-sceptics with a further chance to embarrass the government. The referendum debate will be the last measure during the committee stage of the European Communities Bill. Pages 1, 10

## Triad victim

A former detective from Hong Kong is hiding in fear of his life after television revealed his part in an operation to expose a Manchester Triad gang. Joe Tan was featured in *The Cook Report*, which claimed that 95 per cent of the city's Chinese community pays protection. Page 11

## Suffering in silence

Victims of the Hillsborough disaster have been deterred from seeking counselling through a combination of shock, the fear of appearing weak and the feeling that others were more deserving of help, according to Dr Tim Newburn, of the National Institute for Social Work. Page 8

## Bombings 'listed'

The 60-year-old lover of an alleged IRA terrorist implicated him in more than a dozen bombings in interviews with detectives after their arrest at the end of a 10-month terror campaign, the Old Bailey was told. Page 7

## Gay demand

Plans to allow homosexual lovers of council tenants to continue renting their council home when

their partner dies have the cross-party support of more than 60 councils and the main Aids charities. Page 6

## In the doghouse

Cruft's dog show, the most prestigious event in the dog world, may have weathered the recession with the number of entrants up on last year, but *Dogs Today*, the leading dog magazine, said the show had "lost its excitement" and was "just another dog show". Page 6

## Business paralysis

Bombay's slum dwellers, who bore the brunt of seven days of rioting instigated by religious extremists and gangs, began reassembling their shattered homes under protection from the army but business in India's commercial capital remained paralysed with millions forced to stay at home because of curfews. Page 13

## Somalia shooting

A Somali gunman shot and wounded a US naval medic after ambushers shot dead an American marine. US troops went on high alert after the marine was killed, the first foreign soldier to be shot dead since the start of the American-led Operation Restore Hope on December 9. Page 13

## Staff of life

The Peking Youth News devoted its front page to allegations that staff at the world's biggest McDonald's is "underpaid, underfed and cold." Peking's honeymoon with capitalism appears to be over. Page 15

## Plan for 'privacy' compensation

As the controversy over the latest royal tapes continued, it emerged that newspapers would face hefty compensation claims from people whose privacy they had wrongly invaded under new government proposals. Meanwhile the Prince and Princess of Wales went about their separate businesses, trying to maintain some semblance of normality. Pages 1, 5, 7



Sea of troubles: the Prince of Wales with Shetland farmers discussing how crops have been affected by the Braer disaster on a day of dispute over tapes allegedly recording a conversation between him and Camilla Parker Bowles. Pages 1, 5, 7

Taxing time: In a stern criticism of fiscal policy the influential cross-party Commons Treasury Committee warned that the Government may have to increase taxes and put a further squeeze on public spending. Page 23

Fun for some: Dixons said Christmas sales in Britain were 17 per cent higher than in the previous year but Body Shop International and Alexon, the fashion retailer best known for its Dash brand, had a tough time. Page 23

Markets: Shares fell for the seventh consecutive session, with the FT-SE 100 index closing down 12.6 at 2,745.3. The pound eased 0.10 cents to \$1.5422 and 0.39 pence to DM2.5149. Page 26

Cricket: In spite of a captain's knock of 85 from Graham Gooch, England suffered the first defeat of their tour to India when they lost a one-day match against the President's XI. Page 44

Rugby union: Geoff Cooke, the England manager, has thrown down the gauntlet to the rest of the field in the five nations' tournament, saying that England's aim is to reach the top of the rugby-playing world. Page 39

Table tennis: Elena Timina, the best-known woman player in Russia, joined NFD Grove, a Staffordshire club, to earn money for a flat in Moscow. Now Grove has reached the semi-final of the European Cup. Page 40

Publish and be damned? The so-called Camillagate tapes have appeared in an Australian magazine, but will editors in Europe and America follow suit? Page 17

Floating problems: With more than 4.5 million people expected on cruise liners this year, environmentalists are increasingly worried about damage caused by the liners and their passengers. Page 31

On the rocks: No corner of the earth, however remote, remains safe from the package tourist. This spring you may, for almost £7,500, join a relatively effortless expedition to the North Pole. Page 32

Romance is not dead: The offbeat comedy *Singles*, with Matt Dillon and Bridget Fonda as young lovers, proves that Americans can still make sweet films. Page 33

With love from Tuscany: A touring exhibition celebrates the great love and understanding of Italian art and culture that inspired the Victorian writer and collector John Ruskin. Page 33

Nureyev tribute: The Royal Ballet is presenting a triple bill in tribute to Rudolf Nureyev. Page 34

Pile 'em high: W H Smith is hoping to create a vibrant market for fiction in ten years' time by publishing seven first novels in paperback editions. Page 35

First lady of letters: Caroline Moore on Aphra Behn—Restoration dramatist, poet and spy, first professional woman writer—and quotes her best-known play on "the joys of rape". Page 36

Invisible Man: H G Wells held disturbing views on race and eugenics, well documented by a new biography but Peter Ackroyd still admires the energy which enabled him to rise above his humdrum background. Page 37

Yugoslavia's Marshal: Tito was the subject of more speculation in his lifetime than any other dictator. Did Stalin replace him with a double? Was he a woman? Colin Welch on a new book. Page 37



Erich Honecker, former leader of East Germany, was allowed to fly into South American exile because he is too ill to face his trial. Page 15



Mia Farrow and her former lover Woody Allen are preparing for a face-to-face court confrontation in the final scene of their child custody battle. Page 13



Steven Spielberg's film about dinosaurs, *Jurassic Park*, his most expensive venture yet, is expected to lead to dinosauria this summer. Page 8



Peter Brooke, the national heritage secretary, told the Commons that some charities will lose income as a result of the national lottery. Page 10

Itaye loses his mother and is beaten up. But he learns to leap rivers and becomes a responsible member of society. Itaye is a baboon and this beautiful little film has some astonishing footage. *Wildlife On One* (BBC1, 8pm). Page 43

## Saddam's choice

What is required is meticulous and unconditional Iraqi compliance with every detail of UN resolutions, without distinction. If words cannot convince Saddam of this, further force will be needed. Page 19

## No more taxes, yet

Recovery in Britain is still too tentative to risk a tax increase. Page 19

## Triad terror

The triad dragon is beginning to stir in the cities: only through joint action with the Chinese community will it be slain. Page 19

## CONOR CRUISE O'BRIEN

Two things can safely be predicted about the Fianna Fail-Labour government formed in Dublin yesterday. It will last its full term of four to five years, and it will be securely dominated by Fianna Fail. Both the durability and the dominance will be due to one factor: now that it is in the coalition, Labour will be afraid to break it. Page 18

## WILLIAM REES-MOGG

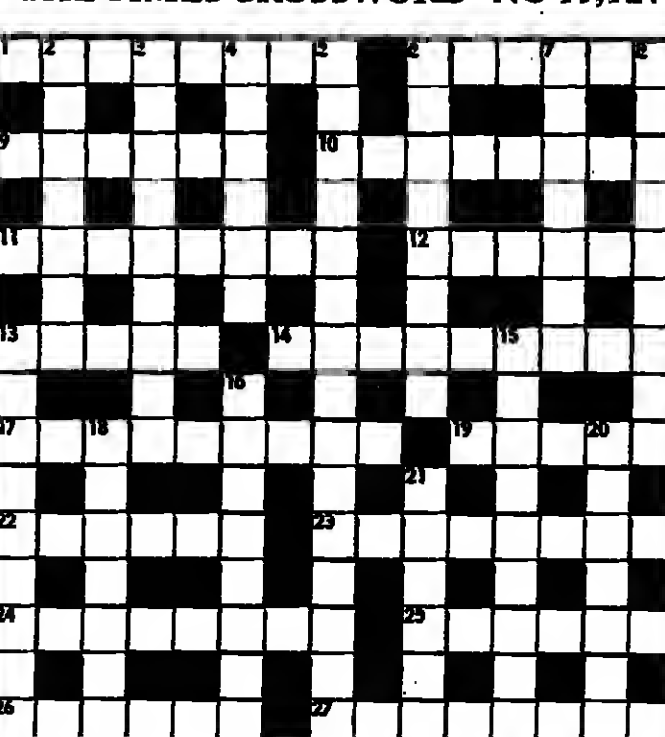
We may be accustomed to thinking of the Bosnians as very unfortunate people whom we have been trying to help, both by supporting the U.N. relief effort and by sending and risking the lives of British troops. The Bosnians see the situation very differently. Page 18

Writers put their views on the press intrusion that has led to calls for statutory controls. Page 19

Perhaps it is time to start thinking about moving on to the next chapter in the Iraq drama. That would involve a serious effort by the allies to develop support for an Iraqi government in exile. Such an effort would give Western policymakers a goal with the potential to accomplish something lasting and good. As it is now Saddam is setting the agenda.

—The Wall Street Journal  
The response of the West should be unequivocal... air strikes against (Saddam's) real centres of power as dictator.  
—Evening Standard

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,127



## ACROSS

- Far above sea level, hilltop is cultivated (8).
- Inexperienced heifer eats everything (6).
- Stumbles around, having imbibed one drink (6).
- One repeatedly mixed up with urgent affair (8).
- Follow the spectators and drive too close (8).
- A support at sea no longer (6).
- Some stretch in Asia (5).
- Person ate artificial tongue (9).
- One enlisted to study handwriting (9).
- Many like a bit of garlic (5).
- Playing companion returned endlessly to net (6).

## Solution to Puzzle No 19,126

ALICE DELAYEDLY  
R D E I A I O  
C H E P T A I N P R A H U  
H O I C S L T  
A R M E D T O Y R E T E Y H  
N E N P E C  
G A M B L E M I G R A T E D  
E A N I I  
L A N D M A S S A B A C U S  
N A T O U S  
P R E S S C O N F E R E N C E  
A R S N P M E N  
P R I Z E I N E L E G A N T  
A S U S N S T E  
W A T E R S H I E D E I T H R

## DOWN

- One military man leads every charge (7).
- Uncompromising policies bring bad luck (4,5).
- Prescription form (6).
- "I'm mixed up", cried the Welsh hypocrite (6,9).
- House-occupant in business set up interminable races (8).
- Chicken in port (7).
- Sad without love, we get lost (9).
- No slouch when it comes to headgear (6,3).
- See 4 roaming free (2,7).
- In favour of money in advance (8).
- Advertisements in classified section (7).
- Headstrong girl conceals name (7).
- Press about to shed a little weight (6).

Concise Crossword, page 44

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0801 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
West-Sussex	702
Dorset, Dorset & Dorset	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Dorset & Dorset	705
Berkshire, Dorset & Dorset	706
Bedfordshire & Dorset	707
Northamptonshire & Dorset	708
West Midlands & Dorset & Dorset	709
Shropshire, Dorset & Dorset	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Dorset	713
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Wales & Dorset	748
Scotland & Dorset	749
England & Dorset	750

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For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

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Greater London	701
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Scotland & Dorset	749
England & Dorset	750

AA Roadwatch is charged at 98p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

Bright or sunny in England and Wales, especially in the east. Few showers in western areas this morning, becoming rain this evening. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be showery. These will become less wintry, but thickening cloud will bring rain with snow on higher ground. Colder in the south than yesterday, and still windy. Outlook: further rain or showers; drier and less windy on Saturday.

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# THE TIMES 2

THURSDAY JANUARY 14 1993

## MPs warn of tax rises and spending cuts

By JANET BUSH AND SHEILA GUNN

IF the government's hoped-for economic growth fails to materialise this year, it may have to raise taxes in the Budget and put a further squeeze on public spending to control the ballooning public sector deficit, according to a Commons select committee report.

The influential cross-party Treasury committee is highly critical of the government's fiscal policy and clearly ill at ease about whether the government has now worked out an adequate monetary policy to replace targeting sterling within the exchange-rate mechanism.

The committee questions whether the government has achieved a platform for recovery. "It is not clear whether the limited policy measures announced during the Autumn Statement and reductions in interest rates will be sufficient to counter the effects of rising unemployment and falling asset prices on confidence," the report says. But it also concludes that the scope for lowering interest rates is limited as a further sterling fall would risk higher inflation.

The harshest words are reserved for fiscal policy. "The government is walking along a fiscal tightrope," the MPs say. "Without robust economic growth, it will be doing so while staring down an abyss of ever-increasing fiscal deficits." They claim that if the government's 1 per cent growth forecast for this year proves over-optimistic, the "unpalatable" options facing ministers are to raise taxes, cut public spending or see further rises in public sector borrowing.

John Watts, MP, the committee chairman, said in an

**In a strong criticism of the government's fiscal and monetary policy, the Commons Treasury select committee points out the dangers if forecast growth fails to appear**

interview he would like to see the recovery much more firmly established before "anyone starts thinking of increasing taxes". He said tax rises would be counterproductive if they delayed a full-blown recovery.

At the same time, the report complains about the absence of firm plans to underpin the government's aim of controlling public spending. "We are disturbed at the lack of a firm medium-term framework for fiscal policy, such as to add credibility to the government's announced intention of bringing the budget back to balance. A strategy for deficit reduction in the medium term is required under the terms of the Maastricht treaty, whether or not the UK rejoins the ERM, and will also be needed for domestic policy reasons even if the UK does not ratify the Maastricht treaty."

The difficulties the committee has with fiscal policy go to the heart of the pre-Budget debate. The financial markets want evidence that efforts will be made to control the public sector deficit. But, with many economists forecasting growth lower than the Treasury's 1 per cent this year, there is a clear risk that recovery could be snuffed out if fiscal policy is tightened in March.

In its January monthly monetary report, introduced as part of the government's drive towards more openness in policy-making, the Treasury yesterday pointed out mixed signals on the economy. A rise in M0 to above the middle of its target range,

coupled with improved retail sales and car purchases, suggested that consumer demand is strengthening. But broad money and the housing market remained weak and employment fell sharply in the third quarter. The Treasury pointed to further progress on inflation but focused on the recent caution about lowering interest rates any further.

Commenting on the Treasury's policy of openness, including publication of a monthly monetary report, the Commons committee complains that it does not go far enough. "What is proposed might be described as glasnost without perestroika." The MPs suggest that officials' advice should be published, or at least the advice from the Bank of England Governor to the Chancellor.

Clearly unconvinced by the various statements from the Chancellor on monetary policy since sterling left the ERM in September, the committee demands a "clear evaluation of the various indicators and targets used in the formulation of monetary policy" to be in the Budget in March.

Also included in the report is a post-mortem on sterling's ERM debacle. Although the MPs steer clear of direct criticism of the Chancellor, they call for publication of the costs of intervention to support sterling, and for clearer lines of communication when currencies are set to be realigned.

Philip Howard, page 18  
Leading article, page 19

## FNFC poised for rights issue

By JON ASHWORTH

FIRST National Finance Corporation, the troubled consumer credit group, is poised to announce a £47 million rights issue intended to repair damage inflicted by bad debts.

FNFC said that it was discussing with its advisers a possible rights issue of convertible preference shares. Results for the year to end-October, due tomorrow, are expected to show a loss for the year of about £32 million. The group lost £34 million last year.

FNFC made a pre-tax loss of £23 million in the first half, but improvements in its main area of consumer finance are

expected. The commercial banking arm remains a loss-maker.

FNFC issued its statement in response to press reports hinting at an imminent £50 million rights issue. Tom Wright, chief executive, refused to comment further.

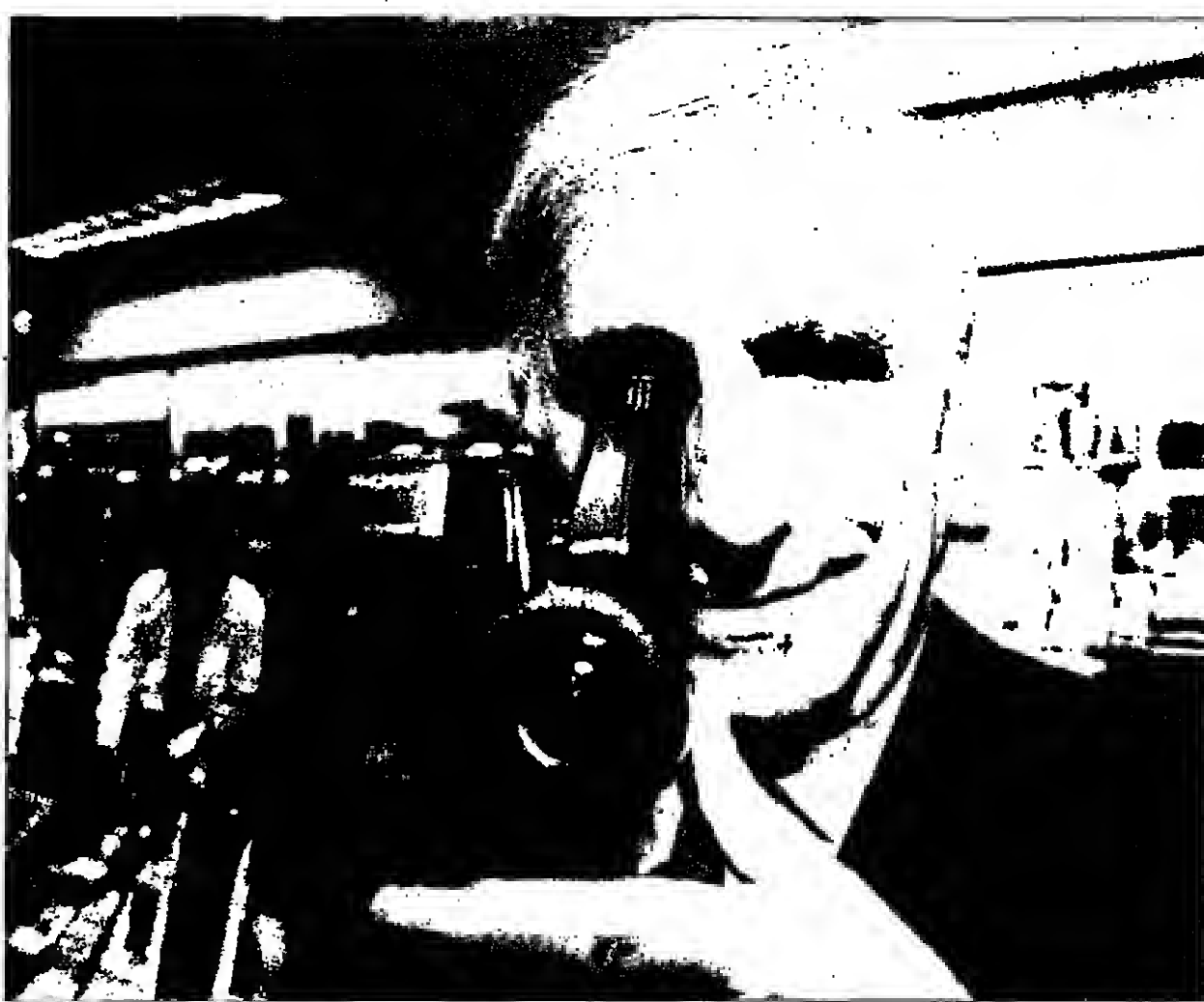
The rights issue will be the first attempt at raising funds since October when FNFC raised £190 million by securitising a portfolio of consumer loans. No ordinary dividend is being recommended for the year.

The revaluation of the group's offices, write-offs in

the discontinued property division and a disposal are expected to result in extraordinary costs of about £8.5 million. That compares with extraordinary write-downs of £17 million in the first half.

Stricter management controls helped First National Bank, the consumer credit arm, back into the black in the second half. However, First National Commercial Banking, which provides loans for small businesses, continues to show a loss. The shares were unchanged at 52p.

Tempos, page 27



In focus: Stanley Kalms, chairman, said like-for-like operating profits in the first half were 33.5 per cent up

## Dixons hit by \$40m US shutdown

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

RETAILERS continue to report widely mixed fortunes over the Christmas trading period, with the computer games and electrical appliances on offer from Dixons Group apparently more popular than highly priced toiletries and womenswear.

Dixons said sales at its British stores were 17 per cent higher than last year in the eight weeks up to Christmas and in the first fortnight of the January sales.

In its first half to November 14, the company achieved an 11 per cent sales rise and a 33.5 per cent increase in like-for-like operating profits, to £20.7 million, from the British operations. These take in the Dixons and Currys chains.

But the improvement was overshadowed by a deterioration at the group's American arm, Silo, and the proposed closure of 45 stores in the Midwest at a cost of \$40 million, which will come off second-half profits.

The shares plunged 29p to 225p, much of the fall coming after the group had outlined to the City its strategy on Silo, which will require further investment and is not expected to return to profit for two to three years.

Interim pre-tax profits from Dixons were £14.2 million, against a figure last year of £17.5 million, which was swollen by a £5 million one-off gain from the release of earlier provisions. The group is maintaining the interim dividend at 1.6p, despite earnings per share down from 1.6p to 1p. Silo lost £14.9 million, £4

million more than last time, at the operating level.

Stanley Kalms, the Dixons chairman, said Christmas sales, and those since, had been "excellent". This was particularly true of computer products, including hand-held consoles and games, of which hundreds of thousands had been sold.

But this was no evidence of a firm recovery. "You would have to be pretty stupid or foolhardy to say that the good days are back again," he said.

Dixons will continue to be judged in the City by the performance of Silo, which Mr Kalms insisted he would persevere with. "The path may be difficult," he said, "but the rewards of ultimate success

may be very high, in the largest market for consumer durables in the world."

Asked if the \$320 million purchase in 1987 had been a mistake, he merely commented: "You can form your own conclusions."

Two niche retailers, Anita Roddick's Body Shop International and Alexon, the fashion retailer, best known for its Dash brand, had a tough time in the run-up to Christmas.

Body Shop, which shocked analysts in September with news that half-way profits would not be up to scratch, warned the market yesterday that like-for-like sales in Britain for the two months to Boxing Day were down 8 per cent. The shares, worth 370p

less than a year ago, plunged 15p to 153p. Gordon Roddick, the chairman, said sales in November and early December had been disappointing but had picked up a fortnight before Christmas, which had arrived late for retailers.

Lawrence Snyder, chairman of Alexon, said the group would just about break even at the taxable level in the financial year to January 31 after Christmas sales that were well below last year's. There would be no final dividend.

Alexon shares, which fell sharply on Monday, when news of the profits warning apparently leaked to the market, lost another 9p, closing at 66p.

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## Enjoying a franc exchange of déjà vu

There was one question on everyone's lips, yesterday, at the oddly fraternal peace conference between financial speculators and monetary officials organised by the G7 Council in Frankfurt: Would France succeed, where Britain and Italy had failed, in preserving its link with the German mark?

From George Soros and Paul Tudor Jones, the two speculators who made enormous profits by betting against sterling last year, to the central bankers and managers of big international investment houses, the answer was almost unanimous: the Bank of France, with the support of the Bundesbank, would win. To sell the franc was to take on the two most powerful and sophisticated central banks in Europe. It was also to defy economic logic as Michel Sapin, the French finance minister, asserted in a passionate plea for support on Tuesday night. France had the lowest inflation, the highest growth and the strongest current account in Europe.

M Sapin's facts were right, but they begged two other questions. First, if the usual suspects are not selling francs, who is? The franc keeps falling to its ERM floor, despite intervention, so somebody must be selling. The

likely culprits are the people the French government has most reason to fear - citizens of France, and trading companies, trying to hedge against possible losses if the franc leaves the ERM. Sellers like these are not easily deterred by intervention or high interest rates.

The second question should be even more troubling to France. If the French fundamentals are so healthy, why does the government need to crucify its economy with 12 per cent interest rates and why is it warning of a calamity if the franc disengaged from the mark?

As Karl Otto Pöhl, the former Bundesbank president, put it, in a devastatingly mischievous introduction to the French finance minister's remarks: "The franc is not stable. It is floating freely against the dollar, yen, lire and pound. So why is France so determined to preserve a fixed exchange rate just against Germany? If France would let the franc float, wouldn't that give it the same room for manoeuvre as the other countries

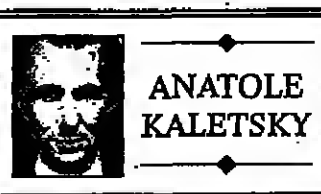
that have now taken their currencies out of the ERM?" M Sapin never answered the question. Instead he delivered a speech straight out of the French edition of the collected works of Major and Lamont. Word for word, he repeated Mr Major's diatribes against the horrors of devaluation, complete even with metaphors, forecasts and historical digressions from the British Treasury's phrase book. There are "no miracle cures in economics", devaluation has never produced "a durable drop in interest rates", floating exchange rates led to the trade wars and depression of the 1930s.

Nothing M Sapin or his permanent secretary, Jean-Claude Trichet, said in Frankfurt suggested any economic justification for fighting to the death to keep the franc at 3.43 to the mark. The French claimed that sticking to this parity was necessary for monetary union. But as Wim Duisenberg, the head of the Netherlands central bank,

noted, what threatened the ERM and the prospects for EMU was not the possibility of orderly realignment, but the failure of member governments to operate the system according to its relatively feeble rules.

In France as in Britain, the exchange rate against the mark has become a political totem, the defence of which is an end in itself, unconnected with economics or even with the prospects of monetary union. Among the speculators, French stubbornness still excites admiration. But as the March election approaches, enthusiasm could suddenly turn to alarm. As one investment manager, who still backs the franc, put it: "The Bank of France is like an old champion boxer, fighting for his title against a hungry young brute. The first few rounds, you admire the champ's skill and you are awed by his reputation. But then it's round 10 and 11 and the hooks are still flying. You begin to wonder, how long can the old guy take it?"

David Mulford, until recently America's top international monetary official, used a more dignified and profound image: "I didn't participate in the discussion of the French exchange rate this morning because I feel uneasy with religious disputes."



ANATOLE KALETSKY



**Airtours admits bid rule infringement**

Sir Michael Bishop, chairman of British Midland Airways, holds stakes in both Airtrous and Owners. His 58,000 Owners shares, held through a nominee account, were bought in 1989. Airtrous, which is expected to launch its formal offer document today, can expect a reprimand from the takeover panel. A spokesman for the company said the omission was unintentional. All relevant stakes would be shown in the formal offer document.

KELT Energy, the independent oil company, has continued its trading turnaround, with an interim after-tax profit of £629,000 (£4.9 million loss) in the six months to September 30. There was a net profit of £203,000 in the year to last March. The company says the results were free of distortions caused by a financial reorganisation in 1991. Earnings of 0.4p a share compared with a 9.6p loss last time. There is again no dividend. Development of UK oil and gas fields were completed on schedule and within budget. Kelt says.

**WELSH** Water plans to spend £100 million, on top of £500 million already announced, on improving the treatment of sewage around the Welsh coast. John Elfed Jones, chairman, said the spend would be phased, spread over 136 locations, and could equate to £100 per household. The additional programme should guarantee by 1997 that none of its sewage will foul any of Wales' 51 EC-listed bathing beaches. Welsh Water said. The group is already committed to spending £500 million to comply with EC legislation.

**DUDLEY** Jenkins Group, the London supplier of direct mail services, has cut its interim dividend to 1p (1.35p) a share in spite of announcing a healthy increase in first-half earnings. Pre-tax profits rose 51 per cent to £383,000 (£254,000) in the six months to end-October and turnover increased to £5.2 million (£4.7 million). Earnings per share were 2.71p (2.54p). Economic conditions in the United Kingdom remain difficult with little sign of an upturn in activity. The shares rose 10 to 44p.

Some sources said proposals for new wording on anti-dumping and intellectual property rights had presented

#### Lease of life: David McErdain, chairman, is optimistic about long-term prospects

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

pendent of third party finance houses, together with our leading position in our industry.

The company demonstrated its confidence with a final payout of 2.23p, raising the

A combination of organic growth and acquisitions helped the group, based in Surrey, to push pre-tax profits to £15.3 million in the year to

total for the year 15 per cent to 3.38p (2.94p). Earnings rose to 10.62p a share, from 10.07p last time. The shares added 4p to 115p.

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BUSINESS NEWS 25

# Heseltine may win EC support for coal subsidy

FROM TOM WALKER  
IN BRUSSELS

SENIOR EC Commission sources have said Brussels will give a positive hearing to any plans by Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, to pump government subsidies into British Coal.

Mr Heseltine will be in the Belgian capital today for talks with Abel Matutes, the energy commissioner, and Karel Van Miert, the competition commissioner, about the future of the British coal industry.

Government officials in Brussels are playing down the trip, but it looks likely that the commission will give a strong hint that it will not stand in the way of aid to British Coal. That will leave the government in the embarrassing position of being free to do a U-turn to help the industry if it has the political will.

Commission sources said that a supposed EC rule barring any member state from subsidising more than 20 per cent of its primary energy resources had, if anything, been used by the government as an excuse not to help UK coal communities.

The government has always claimed that as it spends £1.3 billion a year subsidising the nuclear industry, which accounts for 20 per cent of energy needs, there is no room

for manoeuvre on coal. That is despite hints from Brussels that if only the coal industry was slightly subsidised, it would be world competitive.

An aide close to Bruce Millan, regional policy commissioner, said: "This 20 per cent rule has a strange status. There's no scientific basis about it, and it's far from certain that it is binding." He said that Mr Millan, a former Labour minister, would "be delighted" if the government chose to subsidise coal.

The political climate in Brussels favours British Coal. Mr Van Miert, a market socialist, is less likely to adopt the hard line on state aids employed by Sir Leon Brittan, his predecessor.

Meanwhile, Señor Matutes is likely to continue the work of his predecessor, Antonio Cardoso e Cunha, who wanted to achieve a balance between a sensible state aid regime for coal that would not leave the Community too reliant on fuel imports from third countries.

Commission experts believe British coal will become more

saleable on world and EC markets as Brussels wins its battle with Bonn over the subsidies of £3.3 billion a year paid to the German industry.

Señor Cardoso e Cunha, before leaving Brussels, unveiled a plan to cut dramatically the subsidies allowed in Germany, where the price of coal works out at about £140 a ton. The average EC price is £85 a ton and the average world price is £35 a ton. His plan was to allow subsidies on no more than the difference between the world and EC prices. British coal, at £60 a ton, is less than half the price of German coal, and would stand to gain much of the German market if the commission's plans were approved.

Rumours have circulated suggesting that Germany may solicit help from the government in opposing the Cardoso e Cunha plans, which are supposed to come into force in 1994, in return for Bonn giving British Coal a guaranteed slice of a liberalised German coal market. However, German officials yesterday denied such a trade-off.



Open options Lord Rayne, the chairman, said organic growth is a priority but acquisitions can never be ruled out

## First Leisure celebrates tenth year of gains

By MARTIN FLANAGAN

FIRST Leisure has celebrated its tenth year in business by maintaining an unbroken record of growth. Pre-tax profits rose 2 per cent to £31.1 million on turnover, excluding theatres, up by a similar percentage to £108.5 million. Earnings at the bowling-to-discotheques group rose to 15.83p (15.67p) a share, and the final dividend is nearly 8 per cent ahead at 4.26p, making 6.14p for the full year

to end-October (5.69p last time). Group directors yesterday gave warning against excessive cost reduction as a panacea for recession. "These profits are not driven by one-off cost-cutting," said John Conlan, the chief executive. He said that in a recession, companies risked cutting corporate muscle as well as fat. "If you go too far you reduce the quality of the operation and your ability to trade."

First Leisure's capital expenditure grew £5 million to £34 million in the year, including £8 million on refurbishing six discos. Staff numbers increased slightly. Gearing is a modest 8 per cent. While the refurbishments helped to depress profits at the dancing division to £12.5 million from £13 million, the strongest contributor continued to be sports — powered by bowling — where profits rose to £14.1 million from £13.4 million. Resorts, dominated by the group's interests in

Blackpool's Golden Mile, suffered from the bad summer weather to register a static profit of £12.3 million. Fewer tourists helped cut back the performance at the theatres division, which is now treated as an associate company. First Leisure's £40 million three-year programme to upgrade its operations on the Golden Mile is all but completed. Priority, said directors, would now switch to the South and South East, particularly within the M25 circle. Further growth on mainland Europe, where First Leisure owns a big disco outside Amsterdam, has been put on ice.

Lord Rayne, who has succeeded Lord Delfont as chairman, with the latter remaining a director and group president, said organic growth would continue to be a priority, but acquisitions could never be ruled out. Any interest in a leisure diversification into Rank Organisation's film business has been ruled out.

## British Steel price rises could have big impact on costs

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH Steel yesterday announced price increases of up to 13 per cent for some steel products in a move that could have a widespread impact on industrial costs and, eventually, on overall price inflation. The rises are the first for three years for many of the company's products, and come in a period of weakening steel prices across Europe. British Steel said it would notify customers soon. The rises will range from 4 to 7 per cent for section and plate steel and from 11 to 13 per cent for strip mill products. The increases will come into effect from March 1 for steel plate and steel sections, and from April 1 for steel strip mill products. British Steel said the fall in

European prices had "severely impacted" on its financial performance. The company was continuing to strive for improvements in efficiency to help offset cost increases which, it said, included the effects of the devaluation of sterling. Steel prices across Europe have fallen dramatically, with prices of motor body steel, for example, 20-24 per cent down on last year, and prices for other flat steel products down by more than 30 per cent. Industry estimates suggest that steel producers across Europe are now losing more than £200 million per month. When British Steel announced in November a half-year loss of £51 million for the six months to September, it

said that current price levels were "unsustainable". Steel companies across Europe are concerned that if prices remain at what they consider to be wholly unrealistic levels, plant closures will follow, leading to difficulties in supplying customers. But the market has rejected some previous attempts at price rises. At the beginning of last year, British Steel tried to raise the price of its flat-rolled products, but the move failed as prices collapsed. The price of steel is an important cost component for most manufacturing companies, and at a time of severe cost pressure during the recession, many manufacturers will feel an increase sharply.

## Alliance to challenge Liffe

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE French and German financial futures exchanges have agreed a strategic alliance to take business from the London Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe). The Paris Matif and Frankfurt's DTF will allow each others members to deal directly in the most significant contracts traded on the two exchanges, covering mark and euro interest rates. At the same time, Matif will share in development and eventually ownership of the

DTF's screen-based trading system. Matif, like Liffe, uses the colourful open outcry system, where traders operate on a central exchange floor. Ecu bond contracts would be traded on-screen if the alliance starts operating in about a year's time. Gerard Phanwadel, chairman of Matif, made it clear the alliance is intended to create a Franco-German axis as the core of a federated continental exchange to challenge the supremacy of Liffe

in the European time zone. The federation aims to bring in many of the 23 continental financial futures exchanges. For the DTF, the main immediate attraction is to win business from Liffe on German bond contracts, which DTF started trading in 1990. At present, Matif dealers mostly use Liffe, but Paris traders suggest they are likely to come under pressure to switch business to Frankfurt.

Tempus, page 27

## Ford director to be new head of Acas

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government will today name John Hougham, personnel director of Ford, as the new head of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service — the independent body that resolves industrial disputes.

Mr Hougham's appointment comes at a time of controversy for both Ford, Britain's biggest carmaker, and for Acas. He will be leaving Ford after announcing last month more than 4,000 job losses throughout the company in the UK, and as rumours continue to circulate within the car industry that the company will eventually have to consider the closure of one of its UK plants, probably Halewood, on Merseyside.

While Mr Hougham, who will be 56 next week, will be leaving Ford's difficulties behind him, he will be joining Acas at a controversial time when the government's cur-



Conciliatory role: John Hougham, the new head of Acas

rent employment bill is stripping away from the service its original statutory responsibility to promote collective bargaining between employers and trade unions. Though operationally this has not been an issue within Acas for a decade, political right-wingers have long regarded it as controversial, and have held its removal as a prize legislative target. After the

scrapping of the National Economic Development Council, Acas remains one of the few official bodies with both employers and trade unions sitting on its governing council. Mr Hougham's appointment, made personally by Gillian Shepherd, the employment secretary, came against a strong short-listed field, which also included Mike Bett, deputy

chairman of BT, and Brenda Dean, the former print union general secretary.

Before Ford, Mr Hougham worked for British Home Stores, joining the car company in 1963 as a graduate trainee, eventually rising to his present job in 1986.

Mr Hougham refused to comment yesterday on his appointment ahead of this morning's announcement, which will be made by the employment department. A majority of trade union members in Britain are now for the first time in white-collar jobs, according to a new analysis of union membership in the UK published yesterday in the employment department's gazette. The study, which shows UK union density — the proportion of the workforce who are union members — to be at its lowest since the second world war, also shows that a majority of trade union members have higher education qualifications beyond A-level.

### COMMERZBANK

#### SUBSCRIPTION OFFER FOR NEW SHARES

By virtue of the authority (authorized capital Section 202 ff Aktiengesetz) granted at the Annual General Meeting of 27th May, 1992 of Commerzbank Aktiengesellschaft (hereinafter referred to as Commerzbank), its Board of Managing Directors has resolved, with the consent of the Supervisory Board, to increase the share capital by DM 125,000,000 to DM 1,435,218,900 through the issue of 2,500,000 new shares in bearer form at par value of DM 50 each, ranking for dividend from 1st January, 1993.

The issue of new shares has been underwritten by Bayerische Vereinsbank AG, München, with the obligation to offer DM 119,110,500 new shares to the shareholders of Commerzbank in the ratio of 1 for 11 at the price of DM 200 per share at a par value of DM 50 each. The remaining amount of DM 5,889,400, in new shares are excluded from the subscription right of the shareholders and will be sold in the market for the benefit of Commerzbank.

The subscription rights (Security Code No. 803 206) will be traded and listed with official quotation on all German stock exchanges and can be traded under Rule 535.4 of the London Stock Exchange, from 20th January, 1993 to 1st February, 1993 inclusive.

Application is being made for the new shares to be listed with official quotation on all German stock exchanges and will be made to the London Stock Exchange for the new shares to be admitted to the Official List. The new shares (Security Code No. 803 201) are represented by a global certificate deposited with Deutscher Kassenverein AG, Frankfurt am Main. The subscribers will receive credit to the account of a common depository for their new shares. No claims for the delivery of individual share certificates may be made until the new shares enjoy the same dividend entitlement as the old shares. After the shareholder's meeting on 7th May, 1993, printed share certificates will be available upon request. Copies of the English translation of the Subscription Offer are available on request at the offices of the London Subscription Agents, S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. and Commerzbank AG, London Branch.

Announcement to the holders of Commerzbank's 1990 Profit-Sharing Certificates with conversion rights and to the holders of the warrants from the Profit-Sharing Certificates with warrants attached of 1991 issued by Commerzbank. The additional payment for one share of DM 50 per value in order to exercise the conversion right will be reduced because of the capital increase to DM 45 in accordance with § 4 para 1 of the Terms and Conditions of the Profit-Sharing Certificates with conversion rights; this is equal to a conversion price of DM 245 for one share of DM 50 per value. The subscription price in order to exercise the subscription right of the warrants from the Profit-Sharing Certificates with warrants attached of 1991 issued by Commerzbank will be reduced because of the capital increase to DM 273 in accordance with § 5 para 1 and 2 of the Terms and Conditions of the Warrants.

The new conversion price and the new subscription price will be applicable from 20th January, 1993.

#### PROCEDURE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Holders in the United Kingdom wishing to take up rights must lodge the following:- Bearer Share Certificates - Coupon No. 56 and apply during the subscription period 20th January, 1993 to 3rd February, 1993 inclusive, at the offices of the London Subscription Agents between 10.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m., where lodgement forms are obtainable.

Holders of existing bearer shares which are represented by London Deposit Certificates may request S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd. as Depository, to exercise the subscription rights attaching to the shares and issue fresh certificates in respect of new shares subscribed, by lodging their certificates for marking Square No. 19 no later than 3.00 p.m., 28th January, 1993.

In the absence of such request, the Depository will dispose of the subscription rights attaching to the deposited shares and will distribute the net proceeds to the holders of the Certificates in proportion to their holdings.

Payment must be made in full on application. Holders wishing to make payment in Sterling should agree the applicable rate of exchange with the London Subscription Agents.

Holders of entitlements may instruct the London Subscription Agents to buy or sell rights on their behalf to round their entitlements but in order to do so their forms must be lodged with the London Subscription Agents no later than 3.00 p.m., 28th January, 1993.

Coupons and London Deposit Certificates should be lodged with: S.G. WARBURG & CO. LTD.

Paying Agency, 2 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA

Coupons only may also be lodged with: COMMERZBANK AG, London Branch, 10/11 Austin Friars, London EC2P 2JD

14th January, 1993 COMMERZBANK AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

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# Birthday of the bond that carried London to the top

The City today toasts Sir Siegmund Warburg, 30 years after he became the founding father of the eurobond, writes Richard Roberts

London's pre-eminence as an international financial centre is one of the wonders of the world. Unlike New York and Tokyo it is not underpinned by a mighty domestic economy, nor is sterling a leading world currency. London's success is based on the provision of an unrivalled range and quality of international financial services and on playing host to a uniquely numerous international financial community. Among the activities in which it excels is the eurobond market, celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

It was not by chance that this international capital market made its home in London. Counting in its favour were many favourable legacies of its pre-war role as the world's leading financial centre. Furthermore, London had established itself as the foremost eurodollar banking centre, though Paris, Switzerland and Luxembourg were also significant centres and were feasible alternative locations for the eurobond market. But London also had a vital human advantage — the imagination, boldness and determination of the late Sir Siegmund Warburg.

The founder of S G Warburg & Co. has often been described as an "outsider", arriving in Britain almost penniless as a refugee from Hitler's Germany. His background gave a detachment from the hide-bound thinking of the City establishment, permitting him to pioneer innovations such as the hostile takeover bid. But among international financiers, he was a supreme insider: the son of a two-hundred-year-old Hamburg banking dynasty, a trainee at Rothschilds and a partner at Kuhn Loeb, the leading New York investment bank. No one had a better grasp of international finance.

In the decade after the second world war, international finance was focused in New York and conducted in dollars. A new pattern began to emerge in the second half of the 1950s with the development of the eurodollar market based on offshore holdings of dollars. Sir Siegmund knew from friends at the World Bank that offshore holdings were estimated at \$3 billion. His insight was that these funds could be the basis of a new international capital market.

At the start of the 1960s, the other factors necessary for the success of the eurobond market were falling into place. There was buoyant demand for long-term funds, particularly from Europe. But American authorities were concerned about the growing balance of payments deficit, blaming European capital raising in New York for exacerbating the problem, and threatening restrictions.

Of course, Sir Siegmund could not create the market single-handed, but he was confident that the concept would find favour with European banks. It became clear that the bulk of the bonds issued in New York for European clients were bought by European investors. Yet the rewards of the European banks that undertook the retail distribution were paltry by comparison with those of American underwriters. But if the bonds were issued in Europe by syndicates of European banks they would get the lion's share of the fees.

What was needed was a showcase issue to launch the new market. The client was crucial — it had to be a



Founding father: Sir Siegmund Warburg saw that offshore dollars could be the basis of a new market

European body of impeccable financial credentials. Negotiations were opened with the European Coal and Steel Community (a forerunner of the European Community) but without success.

When the eurobond concept was put to Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale (IRI), the Italian state industrial holding company, it was received enthusiastically because the IRI had ambitious capital expenditure plans for Finsider, its steel-making subsidiary. Finsider's accounts, however, made dismal reading and it was feared that, even with the IRI guarantee, the issue might be shunned by investors.

The problem was cleverly overcome: it was agreed that the loan would be presented to the market as though it was destined for another IRI subsidiary, Amstrade, the Italian toll-motorway company whose books were very strong.

The crucial agreement between Warburg and IRI, giving the green light to the first eurobond issue, was concluded on January 14, 1963 — 30 years ago today. Sir Siegmund's problems had only just begun, however. There ensued six months of difficult negotiations to win concessions from the London Stock Exchange, the Inland Revenue, the Stamp Office and the Bank of England that which were essential for success. The deal almost foundered, for instance, over the question of stamp duty, the authorities insisting on an impossible 4 per cent. But the cause was taken up and won by Sir George Bolton, an ally who was a former senior Bank official and himself had fostered the development of eurodollar banking in London.

The final preliminary to the issue was the preparation of the prospectus. Initially, the wording "foreign dollar bond" was used, but when Julius Strauss, one of the brokers, saw the

draft he put a red pencil through it and substituted his own term — eurobond.

The Amstrade issue for \$15 million, about \$75 million in today's money, was launched on July 1, 1963, by a syndicate of European banks lead-managed by Warburg. The *Times* reported the issue without editorial comment, instead quoting Warburg's hope that it "would mark a step forward in the process of re-establishing the position which the London capital market held before the war".

The initiative was perfectly timed. Just 18 days later, President Kennedy announced the introduction of the Interest Equalization Tax designed to choke off foreign capital raising in America. Yet European companies and governments still had massive capital requirements that could not be met from domestic sources, so they gradually turned to the fledgling eurobond market. In 1963, eurobond issues totalled \$147 million; in 1964, \$640 million. London's early lead meant that most new issues were originated there, and that secondary market dealing in eurobonds came to be centred there too.

The eurobond market grew apace, spurred by further government restrictions on access to the American capital market. Moreover, American banks and corporations joined the ranks of eurobond issuers to take advantage of the favourable terms that the market offered. New issues were \$17 billion per annum in the second half of the 1970s; \$135 billion in 1987 and \$215 billion in 1989. In 1992, the volume of the eurobond new issues was \$270 billion, a 400-fold increase on 1963 on an inflation-adjusted basis.

The thriving Euromarkets drew foreign banks to London in droves — 114 were represented in 1967; 335 in 1975; 460 in 1988 — and for many

years the leading eurobond managers have been foreign houses, though British firms have significant niche positions.

The broadening and deepening of the markets sustained London's pre-eminence. Bank of England estimates indicating that at the beginning of the 1990s it was the location of about 65 per cent of eurobond new issues and perhaps 70 per cent of secondary market trading activity.

The immediate outlook for the eurobond market is rosy. The authoritative *International Financing Review* anticipates a record \$300 billion new issues in 1993, resulting from government borrowings to replenish exchange reserves and to bridge soaring budget deficits, and large scale refinancings of maturing bonds. The longer-term outlook for London is challenging. In the past five years, the distinction between the offshore eurobond market and the domestic European bond markets has been blurred by liberalisation and moves towards a single European capital market. For the moment, London remains the centre for arbitrage between these different markets but if the Treaty of Maastricht is implemented these distinctions will be eliminated.

London will then have the opportunity to be the financial capital of the single European market — a far bigger prize than being home to the eurobond market for the past 30 years. Whether this can be accomplished against a background of political ambivalence in Britain towards the EC (today is also the 30th anniversary of President de Gaulle's veto of Britain's first application for membership) remains to be seen and will depend on the courage and creativeness of the heirs of Sir Siegmund Warburg, Julius Strauss and Sir George Bolton.

The author lectures at the University of Sussex, and is an expert on financial history. His new book *Schroders: Merchants & Bankers*, was published by Macmillan on January 11.

## FNFC leads cash queue

THE market has been quivering in its socks all week about the threat of impending rights issues. The mountains have raged and brought forth a mouse.

First National Finance's plea for £47 million to repair its tattered balance sheet may prove to be the first of a succession of rescue cash calls but it is not going to cause institutions any sleepless nights about funding. For safety's sake, the market was prepared for the issue by well informed leaks in the Sunday press.

Bad debts have drained more than £50 million from the consumer finance group's reserves in the last two years. FNFC has responded by securitising £170 million of consumer loans and would be wise to take more assets off its balance sheet, but the group needs additional capital to take advantage of any reawakening of the moribund consumer loan markets.

The preference share issue will have to carry a high dividend coupon since FNFC's figures, when they are published on Friday, will be desperate. There will be losses of perhaps £3 million, no ordinary dividend, and precious little sign that bad debts are abating in FNFC, the commercial banking operation. At least the consumer finance business is back in

profit, helped by lower interest rates and tighter lending criteria. Most of FNFC's lending is property-backed and the collapse in the housing market has made bad-debt recoveries on second mortgages rare.

FNFC was kept alive by the Bank of England's City lifeline after the last property meltdown in the seventies. This time, it looks as though it will scrape through less ignominiously with the help of this additional cash.

Dozens of other companies, from blue chips to the walking wounded of the USM, are now jockeying for position in the Bank of England's voluntary rights issue queue for a similar infusion of institutional cash. They will be contending with the BT3 sale as well as government gilt sales.

As the chorus of cash demands rises, institutions will become more choosy and suspicious of me-too rights issues that eventually turned the market sour in the summer of 1991. Only companies with superb stories to tell, generous terms on offer or very loyal shareholders can be confident that they will receive the funds they ask for.

By summer, when a modest preference offer might be greeted with indifference or even hostility, FNFC may be extremely glad it was first in the queue for the institutions' cash.

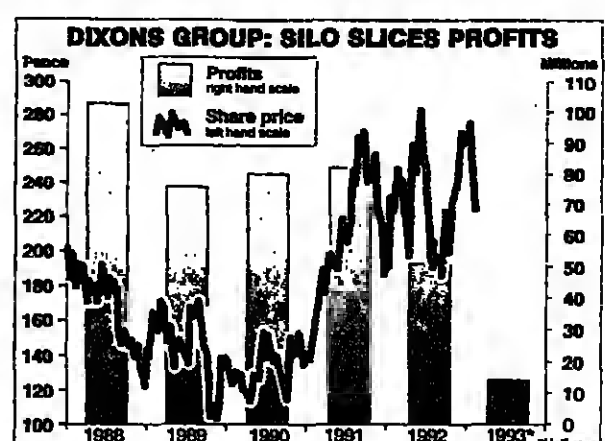
## Dixons Group

STANLEY Kalms says he will not cut and run, but the problems at the American business of Dixons Group are enough to make a weaker man flee in terror.

Closure of 45 Silo stores in the Midwest, at a cost of \$40 million, barely begins to help Dixons climb out of the hole it has dug itself into. Silo will continue to lose money for at least three years, even if management at Dixons discovers the magic formula to improve sales.

Dixons has made a succession of expensive errors in its treatment of Silo. The first was paying \$320 million. Then the group decided to expand the chain across America instead of using the cash to relocate and refurbish existing branches, allowing competitors to take a two-year lead by moving to out-of-town superstores.

Mr Kalms and his team may finally be taking remedial



action, but they have to relocate up to 100 stores in the next five years. This will soak up much of the cash generated by the British stores, cash those stores need to update their own business and stay ahead of new competitors.

Ultimately, it could be cheaper to close Silo, at a cost of at least \$200 million,

regardless of Mr Kalms' defiant stand.

At least Dixons is still succeeding at home, as the recent 17 per cent rise in sales shows.

However, while America is so cash hungry, Mr Kalms will be praying that the latest recovery in high street spending is less fragile than previous ones.

## David S Smith

JAM tomorrow has long been promised by David S Smith, Britain's largest paper manufacturer. Superficially, the latest results suggest the long-awaited jam has arrived in dollars — sales up 51 per cent and earnings per share more than trebled.

The celebrations may be premature. Last year's figures were depressed by a £9 million exceptional charge, and this year the group is enjoying a tax holiday arising from its investment programme. There is also a significant first-time contribution from Kayserberg, the French packaging company bought last March.

Relying on acquisition-driven growth rather than organic growth is always a dangerous strategy. Two-thirds of the group's earnings came from acquisitions, and Peter Williams, the chief executive, admits that organic growth is unlikely until modernisation of its Kemsley paper mill is complete.

That said, Kayserberg is producing admirable operating margins of 14.6 per cent, compared with 7.6 per cent for the group. But its contribution may fall in the next six

months — and probably beyond — as continental markets falter. This is likely to offset any tentative recovery seen in Britain.

There may be jam, but tomorrow is another day.

## Liffe

THE alliance between Matif and the DTB, the French and German futures exchanges, poses a threat to the City's pre-eminence position in Europe's fastest-growing financial market, but a threat it thinks it can live with.

Executives from Liffe, the London international financial futures exchange, were relaxed about the co-operation agreement yesterday. Ironically, many were in Frankfurt, celebrating the launch of Liffe's medium-term bond future, the Bobl, next week.

Liffe has a lot to lose. It still controls more than 70 per cent of the bond futures market, which it founded in 1988, despite fierce competition from the DTB in the last two years. The Franco-German alliance means members of the Matif will no longer need to call London when they want to trade in German futures, so Liffe's

market share will fall further. Liffe believes the alliance will expand the market, rather than poach existing business. If it is wrong, the champagne launch of the Bobl could leave a sour taste.

## Monetary aggregates

THE Treasury select committee's scorn about what it calls the government's "pick and mix" monetary policy may be a touch harsh, but there is still concern about which monetary constellation is guiding the Chancellor.

The search for the perfect set of indicators is still some way from success, judging from an arcane meeting at the Bank of England yesterday. Various candidates were considered for adoption. One, the Divisia measure, purports to do what M4 did not — take into account the effects of financial deregulation. Perhaps it will star in a future Bank quarterly bulletin.

The markets are unlikely to be impressed. They are still obsessed with M0, in the belief that jangling cash is a sure sign of a consumer-led recovery.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Lewis in the pink

GIANTS guru, Stephen Lewis says his accuracy in predicting future movements in the market has improved dramatically during the past four years, ever since he acquired the habit of regularly reading 18-month-old copies of the *Financial Times*. Lewis, still a bachelor, who divides his time between houses in Finchley and Montagu Square — "Because the bond market gets going at 7 am and if I commute from Montagu Square rather than Finchley I can have an extra 40 minutes in bed" — reveals he has piled up back copies of the newspaper on his sofa and arm chair. A former Phillips & Drew partner and these days the founder and part-owner of The London Bond Broking Company, he says he reads the latest FT every morning and an 18-month old edition "in sequence" — every evening. "But every now and again I go out and get drunk which means I miss a night. I've calculated that if I fulfil my allotted lifespan of 72 years I will, by then, be 14 years behind." He attributes his improved perfor-

mance since acquiring this novel habit to "the new perspective" it gives him. He can, he says, spend anything from 20 minutes to six hours studying just one copy. "After a while you start to develop a sense of *déjà vu* and to recognise situations almost before they unfold. You start to spot the signs. The only problem is sometimes you forget whether you read something in the latest edition or the old one, which can be tricky."

### Screen test

A NEW, if short-lived, market place for options traders will be in operation at the Meridian Hotel, Piccadilly, on Saturday. The opening game of the Five Nations Rugby Tournament — England v France — will be shown live from Twickenham on a giant screen while 120 finance professionals trade options, based on the final winning margin of the game, in a specially constructed open outcry pit. Organised by Société Générale, the French bank, the rugby options market is intended to demonstrate the flexible nature of options and those watching the game at home will be able to trade



"My mum doesn't believe in Father Christmas — she works for Body Shop"

the options trading desk at Société Générale's London office.

### Tanker talk

AN INTERNAL BP memorandum, leaked to Greenpeace, was last night circulated to the press by the environmental group. The memo is certain to cause some embarrassment within Britannic House, since it tells BP's senior managers, "The message of course is — let's keep our heads down... BP Shipping does not, repeat not, want BP to become involved in a debate about tanker safety etc, arising from the tanker disaster off the Shetlands." But condemnation by Greenpeace of this strategy, describing "the resounding silence" from the oil industry as "shameful" by those in the City who monitor the oil sector, "If it were BP crude being carried in a BP tanker it might be different, but it was not, and BP's course of action is understandable," said one oil analyst. "The real issue here is one of shipping law and registration. Greenpeace seems to be missing the point."

CAROL LEONARD

## Bank commission on cheques and the single market

From Mr Peter Spiegel Sir: We have received recently two bank statements showing bank commission on cheques received from our overseas customers.

A cheque from Belgium in the amount of £105.16 sterling yielded £96.66, bank commission being £8.50, and another cheque from Belgium in the amount of £53.95 sterling yielded £40.02, commission deducted £13.93.

The bank's commission, of course, equates to about our profit. The options open to us are limited — we could cease trading overseas or we could

bump up our prices to cover, thus overcharging, and treating customers unfairly. In theory, the single market is the ultimate state of trading for European traders, but as you see it is being scuttled before it gets off the ground by the banks.

The bank's intractability apart, why cannot we exchange cheques with our European partners on the same terms as within the UK? Trading on equal terms with Europe so far is out of the question.

Yours faithfully, PETER SPIEGEL

## Taurus need not bring an increase in charges

From Mr G. D. R. Oldham Sir: It is indeed unfortunate that Barclays Bank should have chosen to introduce substantial charges for custody of shareholdings citing the introduction of Taurus as their reason. Not only does this tariff change precede the introduction of Taurus by what is likely to be over a year, but also there is no justification in our view for substantial increases in charges as a result of the new system.

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Yours faithfully, G. D. R. OLDHAM, Chief Executive, The Share Centre Ltd, PO Box 1000, Tring, Hertfordshire.

Peter Spiegel & Co, Manufacturing Stationers & Printers, 6 St George's Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire.

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John Murphy

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# ACCOUNTANCY

## Trade marks and patents need a place on the balance sheet

**John Murphy says the goodwill debate could be solved by redefining the elements that make up company worth**

One of the most vexed issues for medieval theologians was the nature of the feathered from the wings of the archangel Gabriel. At times, the current accountancy debate on whether goodwill should be recognised on balance sheets has echoes of this medieval dispute.

The "goodwill issue" is not a narrow, sterile one of concern only to more technically minded accountants. Indeed, in recent years it has involved analysts, investors, business managers and marketing specialists and is, arguably, the single most complex issue currently facing accountancy.

The reason is that there has been a fundamental change this century in how wealth is created and how the worth of businesses should be measured, but accounting practice has failed to recognise this fully. Recently, and particularly through the recognition of brands on the balance sheet, preparers of accounts who (in their view) have been particularly disadvantaged by the failure of accountants to resolve the goodwill issue have found a workable way of settling the problem, but in doing so they have confronted the regulatory authorities with an issue that can no longer be ignored.

The problem they face is whether to ban all recognition of goodwill on the balance sheet, whether to enshrine and legitimise current practice, or some version thereof, or whether to be even more radical, perhaps, as suggested last week by Professor Baxter, of the London School of Economics, by providing for regular revaluations of the business using discounted cash flow techniques. Those



Valued asset: John Murphy says trade marks are of far more value than the tangible assets on balance sheets

accountants who oppose any intangibles on the balance sheet argue that the balance sheet does not purport to be a statement of worth or value but, as its name implies, is merely a balancing device to ensure that all the cash flows of a business are properly captured. Accordingly, they see no role for intangibles. Others argue that terms such as balance sheet strength clearly imply that the balance sheet should provide users with a statement of the underlying worth and strength of a business. They argue, therefore, that the company's most valuable assets should be represented on the balance sheet by their tangible or intangible.

Professor Baxter believes, and I agree, that one of the main problems for the "goodwill debate" is the term goodwill itself. To most of us, goodwill implies some form of intangible asset or vapour and any reluctance to recognise anything so transient as goodwill in such an important

statement as a balance sheet is, in these circumstances, understandable. However, the generalised term goodwill embraces all kinds of intangibles that vary markedly in their nature, "crispness", and tangibility. At one end of the scale, there are assets such as brands (ie active trade marks), patents, copyrights and designs and at the other end are altogether more amorphous assets such as management teams and relationships with customers and suppliers. In certain instances, the term goodwill may even cover no underlying assets at all but merely, perhaps, an overpayment.

Trade marks, patents, copyrights and designs are known collectively as intellectual property or, sometimes, industrial property. Such property is distinguished by the fact that its owners have specific title to it that in the main is registered with government bodies such as trade

mark and patent offices. Intellectual property rights can be bought, sold, leased and mortgaged and, in virtually every respect other than tangibility, may be indistinguishable from property rights in freeholds, leaseholds or plant and machinery. You can ask any intellectual property lawyer about this and they will assure you that in terms of title, intellectual property is as substantial as tangible property.

An elegant and appropriate solution to the goodwill debate would be to redefine the key building blocks that constitute a company's worth not under two headings, tangible assets and goodwill, but under three — tangible assets, specific intangible assets or goodwill.

Tangible assets would, as at present, comprise property, plant, investments, cash and so forth; specific intangible assets would cover intellectual property to which the company had clear, and usually registered title; and goodwill would cover the rest. Tangible

assets and specific intangible assets would be capable of recognition on the balance sheet, subject to the normal safeguards, but goodwill would not.

As specific intangible assets would cover economic assets whose cash flows, and their reliability, can be reliably determined, they would fit comfortably on the balance sheet. Thus trade marks such as Coca-Cola and Tab, patents such as those owned by Wellcome in the anti-viral area and copyrights such as Thomson's music scores or the latest winner of the Booker prize would all be capable of recognition on balance sheets. And so they should be — they are all assets of far more value to their owners than the tangible assets used in their production which appear readily on the balance sheet.

The author is chairman of Interbrand Group plc, the branding and brand valuation consultancy

## Reaching the parts others fail to read

AT A time when annual reports are growing better and better with facts, figures and the inevitable corporate flattery it is worth giving a thought to whether all this stuff is getting through to relevant readers. A recent report says the people who you might have thought really need all the information tend not to read it and the people who do bother find it desperately difficult to understand.

There has been surprisingly little comprehensive research on how and if annual reports are useful to their readers. Probably the best efforts were two books produced in the late 1970s by David Tweedie, then chairman of the Accounting Standards Board, and Tom Lee, then of the University of Edinburgh. These researched the degree of understanding of reports and accounts shown firstly by private shareholders and secondly institutional shareholders. In those more idealistic days, some surprise was shown when they revealed that both institutional and private shareholders, if they were being honest, had to admit they did not really understand much.

And worse, appeared clueless when faced with specific questions on the meaning of various bits of relatively straightforward accounting terminology. Now a new report, admittedly only covering private shareholders, investment analysts and institutional shareholders of one big company, has provided fresh thoughts. It has been produced by a team led by Professor Roger Hussey of Bristol Business School at the University of the West of England, Bristol. The company in question was Wellcome, the pharmaceutical group. Hussey's team interviewed samples of all three user groups and the results show why problems of comprehension still arise.

For one thing, the report confirms just how far different groups of investors get different quality of information. "Institutional investors, and to a lesser extent, analysts, regard personal contacts with the company through presentations, visits and interviews as important sources of information for investment decision-making," says the report. "As private shareholders do not have the same opportunities, they rely heavily on the press and annual reports for investment decisions."

And this is how the paradox arises that private shareholders, who rely more heavily on reports, often fail to understand them, and investment analysts and institutional investors, at whom much of the information is aimed, do not bother to read them.

Investment analysts, the report says, ranked the annual report fifth out of 14 sources of information about the company. "It is mainly regarded as a reference document, only to be

looked at during the course of the year if certain information is required." Later in the report, Hussey's team makes the further point about investment analysts that "indeed it is doubtful whether many of them read it thoroughly". Partly this is to do with the analysts' belief that only information that they can speedily digest and transmit to a trading floor is useful. This is why the annual document with the flimsiest and fewest figures, the preliminary statement, comes top as most important source of information.

This also accounts for remarkable ambiguities when the analysts were asked about the value of the "notes to the accounts" section of the annual report. This is, after all, the place where the real heart of the financial figures can be analysed. Being kind to the analysts, the report says that "the notes give fuller information which allows them to confirm or discount data from other sources, or helps to give a more complete picture". But having said that, the report coughs a discreet ahem and continues "we would

add that only one of the analysts appeared to conduct what might be termed a fundamental analysis with the calculation of ratios for the group and principal subsidiaries". Where the Hussey report comes up with even greater value is in the discussion of the private shareholders' needs. As you might expect, they found the three parts of the annual report read "most thoroughly" by private shareholders are the chairman's statement, the financial highlights and the profit and loss account. But they found a considerable variance between the parts which were thought important and the parts which were actually read. The point where the two coincided was the profit and loss account. The report recommends that if companies want to maximise understanding they should concentrate their efforts on that statement. But even here there are problems. "However," said the report, "the results of this survey and evidence from other studies lead us to conclude shareholders are over-optimistic about their ability to understand financial statements. Therefore, any commentary or analysis relating to these should be as simple as possible."

Given that the ASB has started a revolution in the profit and loss account, perhaps it should provide an idiot's guide, a page long, which companies could place at the relevant point in their accounts. It is obvious from the Hussey report everyone from analysts to private shareholders would say they did not need the guide. But they would all read it.

The author is the Associate Editor of Accountancy Age



ROBERT BRUCE

## Spelling out legal liability as fraud goes on to the agenda

**Alexander Davidson looks at proposals to widen auditors' responsibilities**

SOLICITORS specialising in professional negligence believe auditors are too easily sued, and, proposals to increase their responsibility must be accompanied by clear definitions of legal liability if they are to stay in business.

The *Future Development of Auditing*, a discussion paper published in November by the Auditing Practices Board, recommended that auditors' responsibilities in the UK be broadened to include reporting on a company's future viability and detecting fraud. Meanwhile in America, the six largest accounting firms, in *The Liability Crisis in the United States: Impact on the Accounting Profession*, showed that auditors usually preferred out-of-court settlements to more expensive litigation. The American and British proposals both recommended that auditors' joint and several liability be replaced with proportionate liability.

Rod Campbell, partner of Kennedy's, a London solicitor, suggests that auditors would be less of a target if there was a greater take-up of directors' and officers' insurance.

A UK company is less likely

to bring an action against an auditor than its American counterpart because it may end up paying costs, says David Natali, partner at Herbert Smith, says. "Also, class actions, which can lead to enormous claims in the US, are not permitted in the same form in the UK."

However, Andrew Pincoff, senior partner of Gilborne Mitchell, observes that London underwriters often insure American accounting firms. "If they make losses on US business, they expect to push up the rates on UK business as well."

David Arthur, partner of Barlow Lyde Gilbert, suggests that overall, America, in its litigation habits against auditors, is five or ten years ahead of the UK. He adds that comparisons are difficult due to differences in legislation between American states, and the inconsistent verdicts of American juries.

Auditors generally have an unjustified bad reputation because they are wrongly

viewed as "policemen and detectives", Mr Natali says. "Nevertheless, if a client company has suffered a great loss from, for instance, employee fraud, I would, on the basis of the present law and practice, advise it to sue the crooks and auditors jointly."

"If the company goes to court and gets a judgment for £10 million, he can go to the auditors who are insured and they will pay. The real crooks are likely to have disappeared or hidden their assets. They are effectively men of straw."

However, Mr Arthur comments that the UK precedent of the Caparo decision, which established that auditors do not owe third parties a duty of care, has been subsequently weakened by various appeal court decisions.

The fifth EC company law directive, not yet in force in the UK, could extend the range of people to whom a duty of care is owed, Mr Arthur adds. "Auditors' potential liability is getting out of all proportion to the poten-

tial commercial gain. If it is not limited, people soon won't want to be in the profession."

Either side of the Atlantic are implemented to any extent, Mr Natali believes that, contrary to plan, auditors' liability may increase. "If so, their insurance premiums will shoot up, leading in turn to a fee increase."

John Parker, partner of Davies Arnold Cooper, argues that, with the likelihood of audits becoming more expensive and more time-consuming, a demand will arise for lower-cost auditing. "There comes a point when you're doing an audit so cheaply that quality is affected," he adds.

To help resolve the problem, Mr Parker recommends standardisation of accounting conventions. Mr Campbell adds that the extent of an auditor's duty to detect fraud in particular must be made clear. "If the auditor's responsibilities are expanded, it is probably not possible to have total clarity," he argues. Mr Parker adds: "Accountants can pick up the obvious things only. The perpetrator of fraud is clever enough not to make it obvious."

## ACCOUNTANCY & FINANCE



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### Heard any good excuses lately

ACCOUNTANTS are, it seems, worse than children when it comes to making up excuses for work left undone. Accountants, the financial recruitment consultant, asked more than 200 managers across the UK to recall the best excuse they had heard for not getting work done. These ranged from "my dog ate the work" to "I had to look after the cat who was about to have kittens" to "my wife has just retired to commit suicide". One employee's grandmother "died" four times in a matter of months. Another claimed he missed a deadline because "his wellies were leaking when he was walking through four feet of water". Yet another claimed he was unable to get to the office because "his wife had not washed his socks". Some just came clean, proclaiming: "It was too hard to

### OTHER BUSINESS

do" and "I'm just lazy and complacent and couldn't be bothered to do it".

### Tracking waste

TALK about a rotten assignment. KPMG has been appointed to advise Hungary on

the implementation of a modern hazardous waste management information system. Hungary has accumulated large quantities of hazardous waste and needs a way of tracking it down. The clean-up of inherited waste problems is expected to take several years — something that should not dismay KPMG which prides itself on its work in environmental management.

### Holiday spots

ACCOUNTANTS are not very adventurous when it comes to travelling abroad. More than a third of respondents to a survey by Accountancy magazine — 41 per cent — chose their last holiday as they had been to the place before and enjoyed it. European holidays and package holidays were the most popular choice,

but only 15 per cent went in for skiing trips. On the spending front, 44 per cent managed to blow between £500 to £1,000 on their last holiday. While 58 per cent of accountants are entitled to 25 to 29 days' holiday, most felt they deserved more. Despite this, 43 per cent do not manage to use up all their holiday entitlement. Just to prove that you can never escape work entirely, 44 per cent leave contact numbers with their offices and clients while they are away. Nearly a third feel that their work is not taken care of properly during their absence.

THERE are high-level changes at Coopers & Lybrand where Eugene Freedman, head of the US practice, has taken on the additional role of chairman of Coopers & Lybrand (International) from Brandon Gough, head of the UK and European practices.

JON ASHWORTH





## Portfolio Plus

From this Portfolio Plus card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall gain or loss. If it is positive, you have made a profit. If it is negative, you have made a loss. If you want to know the daily price of a share, the daily price money can be found on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Share or Unit
1	Albion Mill	Paper Print	
2	Remson	Printing	
3	Hutch Whamp	Business Serv	
4	Laport	Chemical	
5	Unichem	Industrial	
6	Northam Elec	Electricity	
7	Rugby Group	Building, Rtd	
8	Hamro	Banking	
9	Central Mtr	Motorcars	
10	Royal Elec	Electricity	
11	Clifford Fd A	Food	
12	Matthews (B)	Food	
13	Ren Bms	Banking	
14	Steeding Pub	Newspaper, Pub	
15	Compass Op	Leisure	
16	Vickers	Industrial	
17	Trent	Food	
18	New Corp	Newspaper, Pub	
19	South West	Water	
20	Bank of Wales	Banking	
21	Thames Valley	Education	
22	Serco	Business Serv	
23	Airways	Leisure	
24	Anglian Water	Water	
25	Deccan Fldg	Property	
26	BAT	Tobacco	
27	Colson	Textiles	
28	Hayward Wm	Building, Rtd	
29	Scapicorp	Electricity	
30	Sidm Water	Water	
31	Morrison (W)	Food	
32	Wywale	Drugs, Meds	
33	Lowndes Lmb	Insurance	
34	Asoc Br Ports	Transport	
35	Thames TV	Leisure	
36	Unilever	Industrial	
37	Wessex Water	Water	
38	Wimpsey G	Building, Rtd	
39	Orange Free	Mining	
40	Fisons	Industrial	

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1992/93	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
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1992/93	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
39	100	95	Albion Mill	98	-1	10.5	19.12
40	100	95	Remson	98	-1	10.5	19.12
41	100	95	Hutch Whamp	98	-1	10.5	19.12
42	100	95	Laport	98	-1	10.5	19.12
43	100	95	Unichem	98	-1	10.5	19.12
44	100	95	Northam Elec	98	-1	10.5	19.12
45	100	95	Rugby Group	98	-1	10.5	19.12
46	100	95	Hamro	98	-1	10.5	19.12
47	100	95	Central Mtr	98	-1	10.5	19.12
48	100	95	Royal Elec	98	-1	10.5	19.12
49	100	95	Clifford Fd A	98	-1	10.5	19.12
50	100	95	Matthews (B)	98	-1	10.5	19.12
51	100	95	Ren Bms	98	-1	10.5	19.12
52	100	95	Steeding Pub	98	-1	10.5	19.12
53	100	95	Compass Op	98	-1	10.5	19.12
54	100	95	Vickers	98	-1	10.5	19.12
55	100	95	Trent	98	-1	10.5	19.12
56	100	95	New Corp	98	-1	10.5	19.12
57	100	95	South West	98	-1	10.5	19.12
58	100	95	Bank of Wales	98	-1	10.5	19.12
59	100	95	Thames Valley	98	-1	10.5	19.12
60	100	95	Serco	98	-1	10.5	19.12
61	100	95	Airways	98	-1	10.5	19.12
62	100	95	Anglian Water	98	-1	10.5	19.12
63	100	95	Deccan Fldg	98	-1	10.5	19.12
64	100	95	BAT	98	-1	10.5	19.12
65	100	95	Colson	98	-1	10.5	19.12
66	100	95	Hayward Wm	98	-1	10.5	19.12
67	100	95	Scapicorp	98	-1	10.5	19.12
68	100	95	Sidm Water	98	-1	10.5	19.12
69	100	95	Morrison (W)	98	-1	10.5	19.12
70	100	95	Wywale	98	-1	10.5	19.12
71	100	95	Lowndes Lmb	98	-1	10.5	19.12
72	100	95	Asoc Br Ports	98	-1	10.5	19.12
73	100	95	Thames TV	98	-1	10.5	19.12
74	100	95	Unilever	98	-1	10.5	19.12
75	100	95	Wessex Water	98	-1	10.5	19.12
76	100	95	Wimpsey G	98	-1	10.5	19.12
77	100	95	Orange Free	98	-1	10.5	19.12
78	100	95	Fisons	98	-1	10.5	19.12

1992/93	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
79	100	95	Albion Mill	98	-1	10.5	19.12
80	100	95	Remson	98	-1	10.5	19.12
81	100	95	Hutch Whamp	98	-1	10.5	19.12
82	100	95	Laport	98	-1	10.5	19.12
83	100	95	Unichem	98	-1	10.5	19.12
84	100	95	Northam Elec	98	-1	10.5	19.12
85	100	95	Rugby Group	98	-1	10.5	19.12
86	100	95	Hamro	98	-1	10.5	19.12
87	100	95	Central Mtr	98	-1	10.5	19.12
88	100	95	Royal Elec	98	-1	10.5	19.12
89	100	95	Clifford Fd A	98	-1	10.5	19.12
90	100	95	Matthews (B)	98	-1	10.5	19.12
91	100	95	Ren Bms	98	-1	10.5	19.12
92	100	95	Steeding Pub	98	-1	10.5	19.12
93	100	95	Compass Op	98	-1	10.5	19.12
94	100	95	Vickers	98	-1	10.5	19.12
95	100	95	Trent	98	-1	10.5	19.12
96	100	95	New Corp	98	-1	10.5	19.12
97	100	95	South West	98	-1	10.5	19.12
98	100	95	Bank of Wales	98	-1	10.5	19.12
99	100	95	Thames Valley	98	-1	10.5	19.12
100	100	95	Serco	98	-1	10.5	19.12

1992/93	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
101	100	95	Albion Mill	98	-1	10.5	19.12
102	100	95	Remson	98	-1	10.5	19.12
103	100	95	Hutch Whamp	98	-1	10.5	19.12
104	100	95	Laport	98	-1	10.5	19.12
105	100	95	Unichem	98	-1	10.5	19.12
106	100	95	Northam Elec	98	-1	10.5	19.12
107	100	95	Rugby Group	98	-1	10.5	19.12
108	100	95	Hamro	98	-1	10.5	19.12
109	100	95	Central Mtr	98	-1	10.5	19.12
110	100	95	Royal Elec	98	-1	10.5	19.12
111	100	95	Clifford Fd A	98	-1	10.5	19.12
112	100	95	Matthews (B)	98	-1	10.5	19.12
113	100	95	Ren Bms	98	-1	10.5	19.12
114	100	95	Steeding Pub	98	-1	10.5	19.12
115	100	95	Compass Op	98	-1	10.5	19.12
116	100	95	Vickers	98	-1	10.5	19.12
117	100	95	Trent	98	-1	10.5	19.12
118	100	95	New Corp	98	-1	10.5	19.12
119	100	95	South West	98	-1	10.5	19.12
120	100	95	Bank of Wales	98	-1	10.5	19.12
121	100	95	Thames Valley	98	-1	10.5	19.12
122	100	95	Serco	98	-1	10.5	19.12
123	100	95	Airways	98	-1	10.5	19.12
124	100	95	Anglian Water	98	-1	10.5	19.12
125	100	95	Deccan Fldg	98	-1	10.5	19.12
126	100	95	BAT	98	-1	10.5	19.12
127	100	95	Colson	98	-1	10.5	19.12
128	100	95	Hayward Wm	98	-1	10.5	19.12
129	100	95	Scapicorp	98	-1	10.5	19.12
130	100	95	Sidm Water	98	-1	10.5	19.12
131	100	95	Morrison (W)	98	-1	10.5	19.12
132	100	95	Wywale	98	-1	10.5	19.12
133	100	95	Lowndes Lmb	98	-1	10.5	19.12
134	100	95	Asoc Br Ports	98	-1	10.5	19.12
135	100	95	Thames TV	98	-1	10.5	19.12
136	100	95	Unilever	98	-1	10.5	19.12
137	100	95	Wessex Water	98	-1	10.5	19.12
138	100	95	Wimpsey G	98	-1	10.5	19.12
139	100	95	Orange Free	98	-1	10.5	19.12
140	100	95	Fisons	98	-1	10.5	19.12

## Slide continues

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 4. Dealings end January 15. Settlement day January 25. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1992/93	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
141	100	95	Albion Mill	98	-1	10.5	19.12
142	100	95	Remson	98	-1	10.5	19.12
143	100	95	Hutch Whamp	98	-1	10.5	19.12
144	100	95	Laport	98	-1	10.5	19.12
145	100	95	Unichem	98	-1	10.5	19.12
146	100	95	Northam Elec	98	-1	10.5	19.12
147	100	95	Rugby Group	98	-1	10.5	19.12
148	100	95	Hamro	98	-1	10.5	19.12
149	100	95	Central Mtr	98	-1	10.5	19.12
150	100	95	Royal Elec	98	-1	10.5	19.12
151	100	95	Clifford Fd A	98	-1	10.5	19.12
152	100	95	Matthews (B)	98	-1	10.5	19.12
153	100	95	Ren Bms	98	-1	10.5	19.12
154	100	95	Steeding Pub	98	-1	10.5	19.12
155	100	95	Compass Op	98	-1	10.5	19.12
156	100	95	Vickers	98	-1	10.5	19.12
157	100	95	Trent	98	-1	10.5	19.12
158	100	95	New Corp	98	-1	10.5	19.12
159	100	95	South West	98	-1	10.5	19.12
160	100	95	Bank of Wales	98	-1	10.5	19.12
161	100	95	Thames Valley	98	-1	10.5	19.12
162	100	95	Serco	98	-1	10.5	19.12
163	100	95	Airways	98	-1	10.5	19.12
164	100	95	Anglian Water	98	-1	10.5	19.12
165	100	95	Deccan Fldg	98	-1	10.5	19.12
166	100	95	BAT	98	-1	10.5	19.12
167	100	95	Colson	98	-1	10.5	19.12
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169	100	95	Scapicorp	98	-1	10.5	19.12
170	100	95	Sidm Water	98	-1	10.5	19.12
171	100	95	Morrison (W)	98	-1	10.5	19.12
172	100	95	Wywale	98	-1	10.5	19.12
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177	100	95	Wessex Water	98	-1	10.5	19.12
178	100	95	Wimpsey G	98	-1	10.5	19.12
179	100	95	Orange Free	98	-1	10.5	19.12
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# ARTS

**DANCE page 34**

Darcey Bussell makes an ideal Terpsichore in the Royal Ballet revival of Balanchine's Apollo

**THEATRE page 35**

Billy Roche: The author of the Wexford Trilogy gets a fine Irish welcome in his home town

**CINEMA: Geoff Brown welcomes Cameron Crowe's *Singles*, an offbeat but convincing American view of romance**

## Love's young dream is the real thing

American films have done such a thorough job of trampling young love to death that a sweet film such as *Singles* takes you by surprise. Here are characters in their early twenties, with bills to pay and careers to nurture, mostly residents of the same Seattle apartment house, variously stricken by Cupid's darts. They are fresh, funny and, within the film's limits, entirely believable.

Environmentalist Linda (the excellent Kyra Sedgwick) burns her fingers with a Casanova and decides to forswear men. But her timing is bad: up pops civil engineer Steve, a perfect match, played by Campbell Scott, the poor little rich boy dying from leukaemia in *Dying Young*. Meanwhile, Bridget Fonda's Janet, an unfulfilled waitress, doggedly worships the indifferent Cliff, a rock musician with a few brain cells missing. Matt Dillon takes this part, with a pinch of self-parody. It is his most pleasing performance in years. All characters are single, swept up in the film's dance of life, expertly choreographed by writer-director Cameron Crowe.

Crowe, 34 years old, is clearly a youth specialist. He profiled rock musicians for *Rolling Stone* magazine, and came to movies with the high school romp *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, based on his book. *Singles*, his second film as director, is particularly good at catching the beginnings of relationships: the fumbling encounters, the exploratory surveys of records, books and posters. Crowe has a sharp eye for social detail and knows how to use pop music. Some 30 numbers threaded through the soundtrack feature Seattle groups.

For a mainstream venture, *Singles* takes a few risks. Characters talk to the camera; scenes are grouped under titles such as "The Hourglass Syndrome" and "What Took You So Long?". The discursive approach, and the lack of big stars, may be why this greatly engaging film has perplexed its distributors and failed to whip up a box-office storm. But there is real quality here that deserves a wide audience.

After reading the film script of the hit South African musical *Sarafina*, Whoopi Goldberg asked the producer, "Is there anywhere I can slip in here without it being too distracting?" An ingenious question, for Whoopi is hard to camouflage, least of all in a South African film, shot in Soweto.

Yet a spot was found for the lady who set the nuns swinging in *Sister Act*. Now she is a feisty teacher in the Soweto of 1986, her mission to ignore the approved textbooks, instill a political conscience in her

**Singles**  
MGM Trocadero,  
Oxford Street, 12

**Sarafina!**  
Curzon West End, 15

**Man Bites Dog**  
Everyman, Metro, 18

**Soft Top Hard Shoulder**  
MGM Trocadero, 15

charges and lead the odd song and dance. Behind her fridge stands a rifle: she is against violence, she says, but would fight if pushed.

Whoopi attacks her role with just enough force to make the character resonate, but not enough to overbalance the film. For Mbongeni Ngema's musical is the story of Sarafina, the smiling, pretty pupil who comes of age through the violence of Soweto in the years of emergency rule. Leti Khumalo, who originated the role, gives a vibrant performance, undimmed by hundreds of stage performances of the show in Johannesburg and New York.

If the images emphasise injustice and violence, Ngema and Hugh Masekela's music celebrates energy, joy and defiance. The two do not always gel. An opening number, with the word Soweto spelt out on the plains like the Hollywood sign, gets the film off on the wrong foot. The greater realism that cinema offers makes some other songs appear misplaced: who wants to hear jolly voices after a racist policeman is horrendously burnt to death?

Local director Darrell James Roodt, however, shows little restraint. The camera zooms, tracks and takes wing in a helicopter; the last scene with Sarafina's mother (Mabika Masekela) is sticky with sentiment. This film, with obvious excesses and misjudgments, has something more important: a passionate, fighting heart. Whoopi was right to take part.

*Man Bites Dog*, by contrast, deliberately displays a heart of stone. In the opening seconds a woman train passenger is strangled. Then the corpses pile up: postmen, old ladies, passers-by, all dispatched in grimy black-and-white photography by the loquacious killer hero, Ben.

At his side, always, is a film crew with mike boom and lurching camera, shooting a documentary about his work. Effervescent Ben brings them to meet family and friends, plays the piano to his



Putting in some benchwork: Bridget Fonda as Janet, an unfulfilled waitress, gets close to Matt Dillon as Cliff, a less-than-bright rock musician, in *Singles*

girlfriend's flute and spills out his thoughts on architecture, violence ("the scourge of society"), pigeons' mating habits and the artist Bernard Buffet. The crew begin as observers, but soon become Ben's uneasy accomplices. So do we, as we sit and laugh while this preening monster lays waste the dull citizens of a Belgian provincial town.

Ever since *Carnes* this brazen exercise in jet-black comedy has sped round the festivals, winning prizes and notoriety for its young film-making trio: Remy Belvaux, André Bonzel and Benoit

Poelvoorde. (The latter also stars as the egregious, all-gabbling Ben.) On release in Belgium, it took more money than *Batman Returns*.

But once you stand back from the hype, what do you get? A conceit worth maybe 30 minutes of celluloid. A string of callous jokes wrapped round sequences that chill the blood: a rape and murder towards the end is especially appalling. A film, ultimately, without a point.

Goodness knows what cinematic talents Belvaux, Bonzel and Poelvoorde really possess: the film's pose of being filmed on the hop

squashes any need for polish. Check and childish humour they have in abundance. But put alongside the dazzling promise of European first features such as *Delicatessen* or *Toto the Hero*, *Man Bites Dog* seems a thin, one-off jape from film-makers who are trapped in a cul-de-sac.

In November *Soft Top Hard Shoulder* won the first British Feature Gold Bier Audience Award at the London Film Festival. Some people, obviously, like it a lot; though they must have a strong stomach for whimsy and an indulgence for comedy stretched thin.

The premise is this: Gavin, the struggling, self-centred offspring of a Scottish-Italian ice-cream dynasty, needs to drive from London to Glasgow to claim his inheritance and his father's birthday party. But the road to Scotland in a pale blue Triumph Herald is paved with diversions, setbacks and too many characters from the drawer marked "Eccentrics". Some seem left over from Bill Forsyth movies, especially *Local Hero*, the film that launched the career of Peter Capaldi, *Soft Top's* lead actor and scriptwriter.

The young director-producer team of Stefan Schwartz and Ri-

chard Holmes and their colleagues obviously have promising talent. Some of the spurts of dialogue deserve loud guffaws. They make the best of their tiny budget and take on the challenge of widescreen photography. They create, in Elaine Collins's hitch-hiker Yvonne, a genuinely distinctive, likable character, a primly dressed runaway with a smile and a moral for every occasion.

If only the film's high spirits had been channelled into a script that had bones and sinews. Instead, watching *Soft Top Hard Shoulder* is like dining out on a meningue.

## Bringing it all back home from Chiantishire



*Allegory of Good Government*, by Charles Fairfax Murray after Ambrogio Lorenzetti. Education Trust Ltd, Ruskin Galleries, Bembridge School, Isle of Wight

**John Russell Taylor reviews a touring exhibition of art and artefacts created by or collected for John Ruskin, the great Victorian Italophile**

Ruskin must have been an insufferable man, even when not barking mad. But the proof of the prophet is in the product, and there is no denying that Ruskin's fabled energy, high moral purpose and intensity of vision (allied to his wealth) produced some impressive, tangible benefits to the world at large. His passion for the stones of Venice shaped British architecture for more than one generation; his advocacy ensured Turner's place as the greatest of British painters; his prose style influenced Pound.

Even more tangible was the collection of art works and documents he put together for the St George's Museum in Sheffield, founded in 1875 as part of the Guild of St George, an educational trust Ruskin had set up four years previously. The museum was am-

ply supplied with material reflecting Ruskin's many interests in the arts and social planning. It is now called the Ruskin Museum, and its collections have been vital in the show "Ruskin and Tuscany", which begins its tour in London at the Accademia Italiana before going on to Sheffield and to Lucca.

As the title and the Lucca venue suggest, the show is primarily concerned with Ruskin's time spent in Tuscany, and his continuing interest in the area and its arts. Tuscany was ultimately as important to Ruskin as Venice; he believed that the roots of much of later art history throughout Europe could be traced from late Gothic

and early Renaissance Tuscany. Through the years from his first visit in 1840 Ruskin frequently made extended visits to the four main Tuscan cities: Florence, Pisa, Lucca and Siena. On each of his visits he wrote enthusiastically, painted and drew local scenes and architectural details himself. Later on (his final visit was in 1882) he also had daguerreotypes taken, and commissioned artists such as William Collingwood, Henry Roddick-Newman and Charles Fairfax Murray. This was for his growing collection in Sheffield, where the documents might serve as an inspiration to new generations of architects and craftspeople,

or simply the local labouring classes whose lives might be ennobled by these contacts with beauty.

The exhibition, drawn from the Sheffield collections and many other sources, is an amazingly coherent rag-bag. He was always ready to respond to beauty in anything. Here we find his own exquisite landscape watercolours jostling with pieces of scientific observation, or his assistants now working on measured patterns from Tuscan art, now lending themselves go with vivid scenes of bustling urban life.

Though Tuscany is present throughout, it was never the limit of Ruskin's observations. From sculp-

ture in Siena he moved on to a fascination with the sculptural qualities of ancient Greek coins. Interest in early Italian engravings carried him on to comparisons with north European work such as Holbein's "Dance of Death", and forward as far as Thomas Bewick and his wood-engraved head-and-tail pieces. The later visits to Tuscany are linked with his abortive courtship of Rose La Touche, her death in 1875 and his first attacks of madness. All of this and more is touched upon in a show at once informative to those already interested in Ruskin and full enough of beautiful things to hold those who know nothing and care less about him.

Accademia Italiana 24 Rutland Gate, SW7 (071-225 3474) Tues-Sat 10am-5.30pm (Wed to 5pm), Sun 2-5.30pm, until Feb 7, £3, concessions £1.50.

## Gielgud's gongs to go up again at gala

### ARTS BRIEFING

GLITTERING ranks of thespians will assemble at the theatre of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in Piccadilly on January 31, when Sir John Gielgud receives yet another award for his glowing mantelpiece. He is to be given the first annual Shakespeare Globe Trust Award, for his contribution to the enjoyment of Shakespeare. The award comes in the form of a statuette designed by Dame Elisabeth Frink, cast in the form of a Shakespeare figure.

During the evening, Gielgud will also be given a kind of upmarket *This is Your Life* treatment, during which friends and professional colleagues will recall their association with him, and clips from his films and stage appearances will be shown. The evening raises funds for the Shakespeare Globe Trust, which plans to reconstruct the Elizabethan playhouse on the banks of the Thames. Gielgud is the honorary president of the Trust. The latest projection for the theatre's opening date is April next year.

● **BIRMINGHAM** Royal Ballet is paying tribute to Sir Kenneth MacMillan, who died in October, with a special performance of his pas de deux *Pavane*, during the company's forthcoming Sadler's Wells season. Originally choreographed by MacMillan in 1973 for Antoinette Sibley and Anthony Dowell, *Pavane* has been added to the opening programme of BRB's London season and will be given two performances only, on February 2 and 3.

### Martin miniaturised

NOT a lot of people know that this year is the 150th anniversary of Charles Dickens's *Martin Chuzzlewit*. But in Coventry the date will be properly celebrated with a new stage adaptation of the novel, which will open at the Belgrade

Theatre on February 4. The staging, by Robert Hamlin, will utilise designs based on the original illustrations by "Phiz" and on the famous Gustave Doré engravings, and the dramatisation is by Sally Hedges. Hedges is no stranger to the herculean labour of adapting giant Victorian novels for the stage: she has already tackled *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, *La Bête Humaine* and *Far from the Madding Crowd*.

● **AMERICAN** trumpeter Wynton Marsalis has already conquered the worlds of jazz and classical music. Now this Renaissance man of the brass world is venturing into dance. He is writing a score for a new ballet by Peter Martins, director of New York City Ballet. The work, entitled simply *Jazz* (*Six Syncretized Movements*), receives its world premiere tonight at Lincoln Center. Marsalis, who is artistic director of jazz at Lincoln Center, will perform the score with his ensemble at each performance.

### Last chance...

ALLAN RAMSAY has always tended to be overshadowed in popular estimation by his contemporaries Reynolds and Gainsborough. That was partly because he was Scottish (and though he achieved fame in London, many of his finest portraits remained in Scottish private collections), and partly because he was much less assertive in style than the other two painters, tender towards women and quietly perceptive about his male sitters. The retrospective at the National Portrait Gallery (071-306 0055) comes as a revelation, showing him as a major painter. It runs until Sunday.

Not sex please, I'm busy British men prefer bed and bookwork

The British business man about is a workaholic preferring a chair to his bed. He is a man of the office, not the home. He is a man of the city, not the country. He is a man of the law, not the church. He is a man of the press, not the stage. He is a man of the pen, not the sword. He is a man of the ink, not the blood. He is a man of the quill, not the dagger. He is a man of the gavel, not the mallet. He is a man of the scale, not the balance. He is a man of the compass, not the needle. He is a man of the square, not the circle. He is a man of the straight line, not the curve. He is a man of the right angle, not the obtuse. He is a man of the perpendicular, not the oblique. He is a man of the horizontal, not the vertical. He is a man of the level, not the uneven. He is a man of the square, not the round. He is a man of the flat, not the curved. He is a man of the straight, not the crooked. He is a man of the true, not the false. He is a man of the honest, not the dishonest. He is a man of the fair, not the unfair. He is a man of the just, not the unjust. He is a man of the good, not the bad. He is a man of the virtuous, not the vicious. He is a man of the noble, not the ignoble. He is a man of the brave, not the cowardly. He is a man of the strong, not the weak. He is a man of the powerful, not the powerless. He is a man of the rich, not the poor. He is a man of the successful, not the unsuccessful. He is a man of the happy, not the unhappy. He is a man of the content, not the discontent. He is a man of the satisfied, not the dissatisfied. He is a man of the pleased, not the displeased. He is a man of the delighted, not the undelighted. He is a man of the amused, not the unamused. He is a man of the entertained, not the unentertained. He is a man of the fascinated, not the unfascinated. He is a man of the captivated, not the uncaptivated. He is a man of the enchanted, not the unenchanted. He is a man of the bewitched, not the unbewitched. He is a man of the mesmerized, not the unmesmerized. He is a man of the hypnotized, not the unhypnotized. He is a man of the entranced, not the unentranced. He is a man of the spellbound, not the unspellbound. He is a man of the amazed, not the unamazed. He is a man of the astonished, not the unastonished. He is a man of the surprised, not the unsurprised. He is a man of the shocked, not the unshocked. He is a man of the stunned, not the unstunned. He is a man of the dumbfounded, not the undumbfounded. He is a man of the flabbergasted, not the unflabbergasted. He is a man of the astounded, not the unastounded. He is a man of the staggered, not the unstaggered. He is a man of the dumfounded, not the undumfounded. He is a man of the speechless, not the unspeechless. He is a man of the wordless, not the unwordless. He is a man of the voiceless, not the unvoiceless. He is a man of the tongue-tied, not the untongue-tied. He is a man of the dumb, not the undumb. He is a man of the deaf, not the undeaf. He is a man of the blind, not the unblind. He is a man of the lame, not the unlame. He is a man of the crippled, not the uncrippled. He is a man of the disabled, not the undisabled. He is a man of the handicapped, not the unhandicapped. He is a man of the infirm, not the uninfirm. He is a man of the sick, not the unsick. He is a man of the diseased, not the undiseased. He is a man of the suffering, not the unsuffering. He is a man of the afflicted, not the unafflicted. He is a man of the tormented, not the untormented. He is a man of the distressed, not the undistressed. He is a man of the troubled, not the untrobled. He is a man of the worried, not the unworried. He is a man of the anxious, not the unanxious. He is a man of the nervous, not the unnervous. He is a man of the tense, not the untense. He is a man of the strained, not the unstrained. He is a man of the stressed, not the unstressed. 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LITERATURE: Nicolette Jones reports on a brave attempt to create 'a vibrant market for fiction ten years hence'

# Time to raise the stock of the new

Once upon a time, or at least in fairy tales, it was enough for a novelist to find a publisher in order to reach a wide audience and achieve general fame. The letter of acceptance was the dream come true for any writer in a garret. Now it does not always guarantee a happy ever after. It could simply preface the various indignities which might include being ignored by reviewers, getting sales that do not reach four figures, and — worst of all — being speedily reprinted. The product of years of work might be pulped in less time than it took to make a rough draft of the plot.

An initiative that reaches the bookshops next week offers the garret-tolerator in this case a former "unloader of frozen doughnuts" and a former shoeshop employee, among others, the chance of a more glorious literary future. WH Smith, in collaboration with half a dozen publishers, is utilising all its corporate might to push seven specially chosen first novels published straight into paperback at around £4.99 each (the books are available in other bookshops as well).

The "Fresh Talent" promotion is intended to overcome customers' supposed attachment to familiar names and stories as seen on television. More important, if it works, it will help these newcomers to create "a vibrant market for fiction ten years hence", as Martin Lee of WH Smith puts it.

So what led to such a tactic? A couple of years ago it was a truism of the book trade that hardback fiction hardly sold (2,000-3,000 copies was tops), and that first novels sold even more miserably, on average 564 copies, one publisher admitted. But successful experiments over the last year or two suggested a brighter way forward. Such publishing houses as Cape, Chatto, Secker and Hamish Hamilton found that by going straight into paperback (even with swanky editions at nearly £10) they could boost the initial sales of books by relative unknowns. — American unknowns too — as much as

three times their expected hardback sales. Meanwhile WH Smith found that if hardback bestsellers were featured in special "Top Ten" displays or in "Thumping Good Reads" selections, significant numbers of customers would part with £15 or so for hardback fiction after all.

These discoveries persuaded WH Smith that readers are more open-minded about new authors than they were being given credit for, and will respond both to cheaper formats and to retailers' recommendations; they put all this together. What the customer will see, from Tuesday, in all 400

**The books selected may not be Henry James, but all promise entertainment**

branches of WH Smith, are window displays and stands, prominent enough to fall over as you enter the shops or their book departments, of the seven novels. The first 20,000 WH Smith customers can pick up free 50-page "samplers", containing a chapter of each of the new books and make up their minds which, if any, they want to read.

What the customer will not have seen is the process of selection of these seven. All were books that publishers were already committed to when WH Smith got involved; but they would have come out first in hardback. It did not take long, though, to persuade editors to take a different tack. The usual financial arguments for publishing in hardback first and the tendency of authors to prefer the prestige of hard covers were quickly eclipsed by WH Smith's wish to take 15,000-20,000 copies of each novel. Once the word was out, nine publishers offered some 60 manuscripts to a panel of WH Smith

selectors. Three of the publishers were unlucky; the other six altered their schedules accordingly.

Undue influence was not exerted. It is not — yet — as if bookshops can dictate what is published. WH Smith's Lee insists that the bookshop chain knew its place. "We didn't interfere with the editorial process and say, for instance, that we would take a book if it were 50 pages shorter. But choosing books we want to promote is after all what we already do."

So is the WH Smith customer about to be weaned from novelties of Gold Blead ads to Booker Prize contenders? Inevitably, WH Smith was aiming for a market it already knows. Although the film critic (and former shoe salesperson) Anne Billson, the author of the camp vampire-spoof *Suckers* (Pan), also happens to have just been chosen as one of Granta's 20 "best of young British" writers (along with Booker winners Kazuo Ishiguro and Ben Okri), the "Fresh Talent" selectors were looking for "the quality end of popular writing" — good, but not too demanding. As Lee points out, "there are no Malaysian authors in translation."

Lee compares two of the books to Joanna Trollope — "gentle English female reads": Marika Cobbold's story of a collapsing marriage in an old rectory, *Guppies for Tea* (Black Swan), and Elizabeth Palmer's tale of a gold-digging Italian woman who becomes mistress of an English country house, *The Stained Angel* (Arrow). Two others he compares to Ruth Rendell. Joanna Hines's *Down's Room* (Coronet) and *Trick of the Eye* (Penguin) by Jane Stanton Hitchcock (the only American in the selection), both involving houses with sinister histories.

Valerie Windsor's *Telling Stories* (Sindbad-Stevenson), about a woman who walks out of a French café and her marriage simultaneously, has already been commended in review (literary editors are responding as hoped) for its "fine sense of fantasy and irony". And Ben Woolfenden's *The Ruins of Time* (Black Swan), described by critics as "the most ambitious" of



Promoted (left to right) Joanna Hines, Marika Cobbold, Ben Woolfenden, Elizabeth Palmer, Anne Billson and Valerie Windsor

the books, goes into a family history involving a 19th-century artist's colony and a troubled love affair. The books may not be Henry James, but all promise entertainment, and none is schlock.

"It wouldn't be fair to dismiss the books out of hand," thinks

Woolfenden, who is the former doughnut unloader, and for ten years a bookseller who was "aware of how feebly first novels were selling". "We have all, after all, already overcome two hurdles: the books have been chosen, first by a publisher and then by the

WH Smith panel." If the scheme works, the authors will repay the investment. All have at least a second novel underway. And the promotion is to be annual; publishers are already talking to WH Smith about next year's.

There is still no guarantee of

general fame, however. Patrick Janson-Smith of Black Swan admits: "Just because the books are cheap doesn't mean millions of people will buy them." But he hopes, of course, that the books are appetising enough to go like hot cakes. Or frozen doughnuts.

## Local life and livers

**Benedict Nightingale joins Billy Roche in the town that inspired the three Wexford plays**

The actors were nervous and so was Billy Roche himself. The photos of him plastered all over town, his face sunk into a hand, was meant to make him look creative, but actually suggested he was surreptitiously biting his fingernails. What would his native Wexford make of the trilogy he had named after it? Would the town think it worth the Roche symposium, the Roche brunch, the walk around Roche landmarks, and the other events of what was billed as the Billy Roche Weekend?

Well, the company at first had trouble adapting from the intimacy of the Bush in London to the gorgeous green acres of the Theatre Royal, home of the Wexford Opera Festival. But half-way through *A Handful of Stars* — a story of a tearaway set in a Wexford pool hall — you could sense the town making its decision. It found the play funny and moving, as it did when the action shifted to a betting shop for *Poor Beast in the Rain*, a tale of emotional failure set against Wexford's success in the national hurling championships.

Off to the sacristy of a local church for the forlorn love-triangle of *Belfry*, and vox pop's verdict was assured. The house stood, cheered, and on hearing the playwright was 44 the next day, sang "Happy Birthday to You". Roche might have some sharp things to say about his home town, but unlike Synge and O'Casey in riotous Dublin, he was clearly a prophet with honour on his own patch.

Occasionally the honouring took a perverse form. A municipal reception started off highly enough, with the Mayor (one Faege Reddy) reciting drinking sessions in the Roche family pub, the Shamrock.

and Roche himself remembering what a passer-by said when the place burnt down: "Sure, I wouldn't mind, but I left a bit of rope in there." But then the County Manager, a tall, imposing figure, stood up and quoted what was in fact a highly ironic comment from *Poor Beast in the Rain*: "A man without a home town is nothin'."

The plays, he suggested, were about the need for everyone to gather "under the banner of local patriotism". They were about flying the flag, knowing that small was beautiful, developing oases, creating jobs, and "participation, involvement and cooperation". Their message was "buy Irish and buy it in Wexford". It seemed that the aim of Roche's work — a wonderfully subtle portrait of the joys, griefs, camaraderie and oppressiveness of small-town life — was to attack imports from Taiwan.

That did not go down too well with the visiting intellectuals from Dublin, who spent some of the Roche symposium warning the playwright against being hijacked by the Establishment. And certainly a lot of important people had turned up for the fun. The publisher Nick Hern asked a small, bearded man to move the cameras at the Roche book-launch, thinking him part of a television team. Actually, he was Brendan Howlin, at the time tipped for a post in the next Irish government.

But Roche told the symposium he loved and hated Wexford, and had written in spite not because of its encouragement. He is also a humorous, unpretentious man. That became evident when he led an anecdotal tour of the town that began with a peck at the tiny terrace house where the Roche children slept more than one to a bed and then went past snooker halls, the site of the burnt-down Shamrock, the plaque honouring the famous boxer who was also his grandfather, the dance hall through whose back-window he used to sneak, and the "hole in the wall", a slit in an old building through which drink could be bought after closing time. The tour ended on the quay, beside the statue of a notable staring out to sea — "his arse turned towards Wexford," said Roche wryly.

But the official events were only part of the Billy Roche Weekend. After each performance, what seemed to be the entire town crammed into the tiny Thomas Moore Tavern, and then stumbled off to Whites Hotel to toast the dramatist until 2 am or so. The drama critic of the *Irish Times*, David Nowlan, was a nice snuff. When he was a student, he said, people would still be singing at 6.30 am and drinking at 9 am. Had Irish livers gone soft?

The last night of the festival, it hardly seemed so. Roche's father played the accordion, his sister and niece sang. The Mayor did a fine solo, someone else delivered a ballad about a local hurling champion, and everybody joined in "O'Man River" and "Molly Malone". Can you imagine anything comparable when Alan Ayckbourn returns in triumph to Hammersmith, or Harold Pinter is honoured by his native Hackney? No, I thought not.

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## Godfathers bred by Uncle Sam?

**Allied to the Mafia BBC 2**

Devotees of *The Golden Girls* will be familiar with the oldest character Sophia's preamble to her wildly exaggerated tales of feuds and violent death. "Picture this, Sicily 1910..." In folklore, pulp fiction and above all the cinema, the link between organised crime and Italian-Americans is the cliché of clichés, as American as pizza-to-go and pastrami-on-rye. At the same time, to judge by news reports of trials and killings, it seems that big-time crime and "the mob" are still New York buddies.

Last night's flawed, sometimes slick *Timewatch* programme, made in association with the Arts and Entertainment Network and Lionheart Television International Incorporated, put all this in a new light by declaring at once: "This is the story of a pact between the United States and the Mafia." It was a study in conflicting imperatives, half a century ago, which would seem to have had terrible consequences persisting today.

During the 1920s, Mussolini weakened the powerful and aged-old Sicilian Mafia through a campaign of mass arrest (11,000 in all). *The Times* apparently congratulated Il Duce on "attacking the monster in its lair and throttling it". The trains were running on time and the Mafia was as good as dead. But, coincidentally, by 1940 there were 500,000 people in the US with Sicilian ancestry, and many were involved at high level in organised crime.

Agents and sympathisers of Nazi Germany and fascist Italy were

using the New York waterfront to get help and information to the U-boats which, because the US declaration of war in 1941 and March 1942, picked off 140 merchant ships virtually within sight of the Big Apple. Since the gang bosses controlled the waterfront, their help was seen as vital in countering the fifth-columnists. A pact was sealed between various nicknames. For the mafiosi, first there was Joe "Socks" Lanza ("He was a power. Nobody could sell fish without his approval.") and later the city's criminal boss, "Lucky" Luciano (then in the sixth year of a 50-year sentence, from which he was paroled in 1946). For US Navy Intelligence, there was Charles "Red" Haffenden.

In 1943, when the allies were preparing to use Sicily as a stepping stone in the reconquest of Europe, this partnership was extended to provide intelligence and contacts, anything from old photos and postcards to names and addresses of the mafiosi back home were collected. Again, the mob had put out the word to be helpful to the invading forces.

Once the allies had liberated the island with the help of those contacts, they repaid the favour by establishing them in positions of local power, mainly as mayors. Simultaneously, they turned a blind eye to their resumption of criminal activity and to the murderous suppression of communists and others who threatened the re-instatement of the feudal system, controlled by the landowners, the Church and the Mafia.

Producer Richard Bradley and his team pieced together such evidence as had survived destruction by the authorities and produced two talkative former agents. The one from US Navy Intelligence said "What choice did we have? I couldn't care less what they were." The OSS man offered: "We used the Mafia the same way they tried to use us. It's too damn bad it happened. We didn't do our job, I'll tell you that much."

Today the streets of Sicily look as dangerous as ever, and battle-weary locals despair of defeating established forces which have, after all, had such powerful help from overseas. As one anti-Mafia campaigner put it: "The Americans are greatly responsible for the rise of the Mafia. I say to them 'Study your history, for your history is our history.' The comic stereotype of the fedora-wearing, machine-gunning gangster with a thick Italian accent will never seem quite so funny again."

TONY PATRICK



Billy Roche: his plays offer a wonderfully subtle portrait of the joys, griefs, camaraderie and oppressiveness of small-town life

JAZZ: Clive Davis talks to Whitney Balliett, once described by Philip Larkin as 'a writer who brings jazz journalism to the verge of poetry'

## Wishing the melody could have lingered on

The best jazz writer in the world? That is a question that would give the buffs an excuse to indulge in their favourite pastime — another, fruitless and bad tempered debate lasting into the early hours of the morning. So, to avoid undue aggravation, let me confine myself to the assertion that, along with the part-timer Philip Larkin, Whitney Balliett stands the best chance of reaching a readership beyond the confines of jazz.

And sure enough, there he is in the new edition of the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*, rubbing shoulders with Bakunin, Balzac and Plinius T. Barum. It goes without saying that one of his two entries is that much-borrowed definition of the art of jazz — "the sound of surprise". The second is his assessment of what makes a critic — "a bundle of biases held loosely together by a sense of taste."

That word "taste" is bound to

who learnt his trade at *The New Yorker* under the direction of the fastidious William Shawn. Balliett's approach, a mixture of impressionistic reportage and some musical observation, has been channelled into more than a dozen books — the latest of which, *Goodbyes and Other Messages: A Journal of Jazz, 1981-1990*, is published today (OUP, £15).

The title might suggest that, at the age of 66, he is bidding farewell. Not so, he explains as he sits in his discreetly furnished apartment in Manhattan's Upper East Side. The point he was actually trying to make was that the Eighties was a decade when jazz lost a long list of elder statesmen such as Thelonious Monk, Earl Hines, Buddy Rich and Roy Eldridge. Their deaths are recorded in the obituaries which seem to crop up on every other page.

Not surprisingly, this induces

Balliett, whose instinctive preferences lie with the melodically-inclined musicians of the swing era. "The music seems to be in a state of recollection at present," he says. "Most of the best records coming out are re-issues, and there are all those young players copying earlier styles. It's hard to see where the music is going. Maybe it's finished, gone."

He lets the phrase hang in the air. "Actually, I don't want to sound pessimistic. There are more people playing jazz in this country than ever before. There's a lot of vitality around — it's just a question of which way it's going."

Virtually the whole of Balliett's working life has been spent on *The New Yorker*. A would-be literary critic, he was hired just weeks after graduating from Cornell in 1951. During that period he worked in various departments on the magazine, and began turning out small

features alongside such contemporaries as John Updike. By 1957 he was formally appointed as jazz critic, though he continued to write on other subjects.

The first of his lengthy profiles — the pieces for which he is probably best known — appeared in 1962. The subject, he recalls, was the clarinet player Pee Wee Russell. Since then the essays have been collected in three indispensable volumes, *American Musicians*, *American Singers* and *Barney, Bradley and Max*.

Philip Larkin once described him as "a writer who brings jazz journalism to the verge of poetry." But his work, it has to be said, is not to everyone's taste. Some complain that the sumptuous imagery and the flowing rhythms can be an end in themselves, obscuring the serious analysis.

Though Balliett has covered his share of household names, he seems seeking out musicians who

have, for whatever reason, made a quiet living at the fringes. "The people that appeal to me are the ones who don't enjoy much popularity outside of jazz itself."

What about dislikes? Well, he has little time for late-period Bill Evans or Art Blakey and just about anything connected with hard bop, and he has never shared the general enthusiasm for Sarah Vaughan. In his early years he had few qualms about lambasting a bad performance in print. Since then he has mellowed somewhat: "You have to look at it from the musicians' point of view. Often they don't get paid more than the union minimum or they've been on the road. I once travelled with Duke Ellington's orchestra, for about five days, and I couldn't believe it. Jesus! You don't know where you are, you have no sense of time or place, you can't sleep right. How these guys do it for so long, I don't know."



Whitney Balliett: defined jazz as "the sound of surprise"



# First lady of English literature



Aphra Behn is now revered for showing that women could live by their pens. Caroline Moore doubts her status as a feminist prophet

Aphra Behn is an attractive figure from the Restoration: not, perhaps, a major writer, but in many ways a typical good-humoured, impecunious, hedonistic professional scribbler from that convivial cut-throat literary world. An ex-spy; the prolific author of twenty or so lively but sprawling plays; the inveterate milk punch; a poet with a pleasantly undemanding line in erotic pastoral; none of these attributes would give the uninitiated a clue to the real source of her recent revived interest, which is purely the accident of her sex. Aphra Behn was also the first professional woman writer.

Virginia Woolf began the modern cult, praising her "plebeian virtues of humour, vitality and courage", and asserting that "all women together ought to let flowers fall upon the tomb of Aphra Behn, for it was she who earned them the right to speak their minds." Behn was indeed attractively plucky; though she would not have thanked Woolf for calling her virtues plebeian. The unreliable posthumous *Life and Memoirs* of 1696 claims that she was a "gentlewoman"; she may in fact have been the daughter of a barber, but she was a convinced royalist and constant admirer of aristocratic values (and vices).

In 1663 she travelled with her father to Surinam, where he had been given a colonial post. Her father apparently died on the voyage out, and his family had to make their own way home. Some time in the next few years she married a Dutch or German merchant, "Mr Behn", from whom she seems to have gained little but her married name. Thrown on her own resources, she became a spy for Charles II in Antwerp, experienced the usual difficulty in extracting payment for her services, and was imprisoned for debt. From 1670 until her death in 1689 she bravely supported herself by her writing.

Mrs Behn was indeed a pioneer in her choice of career; but as a writer she is thoroughly a creature of her times. This is perfectly understandable, of course. It was tough enough for a woman to make her way in a masculine

culture, and one should perhaps not expect her to have enough redundant energy, or genius, also to reshape its values. But modern feminists bringing flowers to her tomb may well drop them in culture shock en route through these republished works.

Penguin have collected together some of Aphra Behn's best-known works, edited by the admirable Janet Todd. *Oroonoko*, of course, looks at first glance promisingly radical; its hero is a noble black, tricked into slavery in Surinam. In modern, or even eighteenth century hands one might expect an indictment of racism, colonialism and slavery, with a few parallels to the female predicament thrown in.

In fact, as Janet Todd points out, Behn is less interested in Oroonoko's blackness than his impeccably aristocratic credentials, which naturally include the heroic ability to fall in love in the grand manner — "for sure, great souls are most capable of that passion." Nor is Behn particularly innovative in creating a black hero. Heroic tragedies with Indian subjects had been highly fashionable for the past couple of decades, allowing exotic costumes and high-flown debate over "golden-age" nobility. (Dryden, indeed, first coined the phrase "the noble savage").

And Behn's *Oroonoko*, for all its fascinating detail, culled from her first-hand observations of Surinam, repeatedly succumbs to the conventions of this theatrical genre. Oroonoko himself spouts the sentimental redemptive proper for a Restoration tragic hero: "No, since I have sacrificed Imoinda to my revenge, shall I lose that glory which I have purchased so dear, as at the price of the fairest, dearest, softest creature that ever nature made? No, Not!" Nor, needless to say, is he at all politically correct. His "dearest, softest creature" is expected to offer "respect" to her husband "equal to what other people pay a deity"; he is, moreover, a slave-owner himself.

The *Rover*, the best-known of Behn's plays, is also included. It contains one of Behn's songs celebrating the titular joys of rape. And with kind force he taught



August Egg's "The Introduction of Pepys to Nell Gwyn" (1850), from *The Play of Personality in the Restoration Theatre* by Anthony Masters (Boydell Press, £19.95). These brief lives of dramatists, patrons and players are elegantly written, neither exhaustive nor exhausting, but with a fine unostentatious range of reading (C. M.)

the virgin how

To yield what all his sighs could

Rape-celebrations in Behn's oeuvre outnumber the arguably more feminist poems in which the would-be lover is incapacitated by premature ejaculation.

The *Rover* himself is an exiled Cavalier, Willmore. As his name implies, he is a gallant of insatiably rampant sexual appetites, chasing after anything in a skirt, regardless of whether he has caught sight of her face, who nearly rapes his best friend's mistress when he comes across her in a dark garden. (Poor Florida is nearly raped by two more of her future husband's friends in the next act.) Yet Willmore's putative charms are unquestioned; he lands the hero's reward of a rich, witty, cross-dressing virgin, Hellenia; and Florida forgives him and his co-offenders with singular speed and ease. *The Rover* is a lively and scabrous play, but it ought perhaps to offend modern moral arbiters as much as it did the Victorians, though it is none the worse for that.

The *Widow Ranter*, however, reminds one why Behn's reputation is not higher. Despite the presence of the vigorously punch-swilling Widow, who uses a sword as well as breeches to get her man, the play is infuriatingly shapeless.

The Penguin collection includes Behn's best poems; the first volume of *The Works of Aphra Behn* collects the whole corpus. Behn's favourite genre is florid pastoral, which is not always taut or original

enough to grip. But her shepherds and shepherdesses regularly indulge in frank sensuality, reminiscent of Rochester without the animating tug of self-disgust; and her only religious poem is gloriously immodest. In "A Paraphrase to the Lords Prayer", the only "Trespass" that springs to her one-track mind is "Love, soft bewitching Love", which she confidently predicts, "will soonest be forgiven of God", since it is God's fault for making "the object lov'd so faulty".

Behn is far too enjoyably immersed in the pleasures of this world to have any time for the hereafter. Her elegy on the death of Rochester is resolutely pagan: he "ne'er shall rise from Deaths eternal Night", which is one in the eye for Bishop Burnet.

Aphra Behn is the heroine of Ross Laidlaw's improbable but readable novel, *Aphra Behn — Dispatch'd from Athole*. According to this "journal", Aphra Behn's death in 1689 was faked, to enable her to go spying again — this time reporting on the movements of the Jacobite rebel Bonnie Dundee. It is largely set in the mountainous wilds of my favourite part of Scotland; and Aphra's narrative voice is well-sustained. But Laidlaw never quite made me forget how unlikely it is that the Whigs could find no better spy than a sick Englishwoman, whose masculine disguise is an unnecessary complication, who cannot understand Gaelic, and whose heart has always been loyal to King James.

Caroline Moore was the first female fellow of Peterhouse

## Trying too hard for the great American novel

John Hawley

THE MAN WHO WAS LATE

By Louis Begley

Macmillan, £14.99

THE QUICK

By Agnes Rossi

Flamingo, £4.99

The title of Louis Begley's second novel is a pun. Not only is his protagonist dead, and his story told by the executor of his estate, but he also had considered himself notoriously tardy in his accomplishments in life, becoming a lawyer too late to impress his parents, neglecting to declare his intentions to his sweetheart until she has given up and moved on. In this theme, in the novel's love affair with continental Europe, and in its circumspect examination of what is not said by characters, the novel calls to mind Henry James.

The novelist that insistently comes to mind, however, is Danielle Steele. Begley's locations are wonderfully romantic, and we would not be surprised to turn a corner and bump into Robin Leach. The women are named Odile and Veronique; in their dress of "red crêpe de chine with a pattern of smug, cream-coloured Buddhas", they laugh their "crystal laughter" in their Montorgueil chateau and suffer the "profound, paralyzing lassitude" we have come to expect from their ilk. Begley is clearly after something more than mere entertainment here: he wants to write *The Great Gatsby*.

Unfortunately, that has already been done and more simply. The

novel itself, and not just its protagonist, is late. Worldly-wise and diverting in its tendency to offer a recipe for *féjoada completa* and the protocol for French deer hunting within a few paragraphs, the novel poses the reader the same difficulty that plagues the protagonist: as we Americans put it, we miss the forest for the trees. We follow Ben's progress through Harvard law school and into the halls of financial power; we read from his journal and hear of his love affairs. We intuit his psychological collapse after his betrayal of the one woman he actually loved. We sense, too, the importance of Ben's choice of *tagliatelle alla carbonara*: the application of precedents as opposed to the creation of something new. But far more space is devoted to an enthralling description of the bawls which that choice has amassed.

This is disappointing after Begley's first novel, *Wartime Lies*, which won two fiction prizes.

Agnes Rossi's *The Quick*, in its lean, prose style, has pared away all distractions and honesty sets before the reader men and women naked to the truth. This collection of ten short stories sparkles with little gems of memory, incidents in the lives of unpretentious characters who could be members of our families, people with whom we work, or that individual sitting across from us on the tube.

The title story, actually a novella, weaves two unrelated deaths into a beautiful examination of the clarifying effect that mortality can have in human relationships. Another story, "Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner", hilariously examines the progress and dissolution of a love affair that literally was based, as becomes increasingly obvious from one meal to the next, on "appetite". Whether it is a tale of a young girl tasting the danger of flirtation, a man reflecting on the price that has been paid in marrying a much younger woman, or a dying cancer patient's careful discrimination between the joy of morphine and the boredom of novocaine, Rossi stops, looks, and listens. So does the reader — gladly.

## Curtain call legends, from Monteverdi to Pavarotti

Cyril Ehrlich

THE NEW GROVE DICTIONARY OF OPERA

Volumes I-IV

Edited by Stanley Sadie

Macmillan, £550

reading. The illustrations are rich and profuse, with marvellous attention to costume, production, theatre architecture, even seating. Composer entries balance scholarship and readability better than ever before: sometimes with rosiest authority, as in Verdi and Rossini, usually with plenty of detail but exemplary economy. Even Wagner is not smothered by verbiage; enthusiasm is reined in for Mozart after the overkill of 1991; and Britten returns to decent respect.

A sampling of individual operas indicates similar care in outlining story and music but also, at best, with critical insight which is genuinely stimulating. Bizet gets by without the latest trend in feminist revisionism, but a huge discussion of "libretto" contains gripping stuff on *Carmen*. Where else will you learn that her heroic music contradicts Mérimée's Greek couplet, proclaiming that "woman is excrement; she has two good hours, one on her marriage bed and the other at her death"?

The Russians are brilliantly surveyed in a series of pathbreaking articles from one learned pen, on Mussorgsky, Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky, Boris Godunov and *The Rake*. Chabrier and Faure leap to the eye, and the Czechs are treated with an expertise and enthusiasm which matches developments in taste. There can be few more congenial



Divas by the dozen, ma non troppo: Lotte Lehmann, Conchita Supervia and Maria Callas



and rewarding places to seek guidance before visiting, say, the ENO's *Broucek*. Additional help is provided in an ingenious appendix which locates role names. Broucek and Malinka are here, but Violetta can also be pinned down easily, not just with Alfredo and his dad, but in Mercadante's *Il bravo*; and six different Walters are variously spelt and sorted out. By comparison, the recent *Oxford Dictionary of Opera*, ideal for brief reference at a mere £25, gives the Janáček plot (and performance history), but recognises only Verdi's frail lady and Wagner's solitary Waltraute.

There are examples of "post-modernist" contact with the realities of popular taste. We may now admire Gershwin and Sondheim, and even Lloyd Webber is given respectful scrutiny. Kurt Weill is also allowed to "have become a pervasive cultural force" in an essay which, along with the discussion of *Street Scene*, represents a substan-

tial advance in reassessing genius. But comprehensiveness also necessitates giving space to the tired old *avant garde*. John Cage's follies get one and a half columns, and there are three devoted to "one of the finest American composers of dramatic music... essential to any understanding of what American opera is or can be". Harry Partch's big theatre work *The Bewitched* contains but a single word: "Bah!"

Sometimes less inane, but always more damaging, is the monstrous regiment of producers, inevitably here in force, with individual entries — Berghaus, Sellars, et al — along with a rather pious account of their art. Conductors and singers, whose previous hegemony they were allowed to supersede — we might have been told more about how and why — raise more interesting problems. Their inconsistent levels of treatment probably arise less from the abilities of individual contributors than from

the diverse quality of foundation upon which a reference book must build. Toscanini, Furtwängler, and particularly Klemperer, benefit from the excellence of published biographies; Bercham is less fortunate. A Panglossian essay on "the conductor" lacks sufficient backing from modern scholarship.

Some entries for singers avoid similarly demonstrable evidence of decline — compare Wagner casting over the last half-century — but here the difficulties may lie deeper. How does one provide consistent assessment of those who can and cannot be heard on record; and how avoid parochialism of time and location, calming groupie excess and adjective spinning, yet retaining some sense of the excitement which, for all low and some highbrows, provides the essential buzz of opera?

One solution is to get a John Steane or Desmond Shaw-Taylor to do the writing. The latter's immaculate portraits of such great

artists as Supervia, Callas and Lehmann are mostly reprints from *New Grove*, sometimes with a different photograph or even, curiously, none; but he also contributes a new and indispensable essay on recording. Another welcome device is the coverage of voice types and a piece on "ornamentation" which awaits careful reading.

But problems remain when entries become pedestrian. Who will understand Jenny Lind without her sanctimonious, opera-denying, quintessentially Victorian drawing power? Or Mallarmé without her ravishments and Garlandesque death-wish, mesmerising artistic Europe and lining Manchester's streets for her funeral?

The editor who seeks omniscience has many tasks: finding room for the lunatic and the dull, balancing enthusiasm and academic correctness; making endless decisions about allocations of space. He must also come to terms with gaps in scholarship and sensibility: by cutting his losses, which rarely seems to happen, or vamping till ready, a necessary weakness.

So "copyright" is arid and legalistic, and performing right gets no mention, despite the economic transformation of the music business wrought by changes in intellectual property. Nor do many of the town entries suggest that musicology is much concerned yet with urban history. Since opera is an urban art, it is pleasant to observe such exceptions as the articles on Paris and 18th-century London. The gap-filler's art is demonstrated with virtuosity in a brief "Sociology of Opera", which, despite its offputting label, even has a shot at explaining how we got here. For that is surely the strangest

thing: a nation which closed its opera houses for ballroom dancing is now obsessed by the art. So *Grove* may attract all sorts of patronage which was inconceivable when Kobbé's *Complete Opera Book* went through its various editions from 1922 to 1954.

Some readers will return from our various opera houses (several built by Matcham, who does not rate an entry; he is noticed in Belfast and Buxton, but not at the London Coliseum), bewildered by a producer's whim and clutching scrapbooks which masquerade as programmes. Others will have purchased ill-documented CDs and videos, and need more assistance than was freely available in the days of "black discs".

Apart from price and bulk they may be alarmed by a superannuated hallmark of *Grove* scholarship: gargantuan bibliographies, arranged by date of publication without distinction between seminal work and pedantic footnote. Such trappings will feed the PhD industry, but should not deter a new generation of opera lovers from enlightenment which, in most other respects, is user-friendly.

Professor Ehrlich, a prolific writer on music, is working on a history of the Royal Philharmonic Society

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# Seeing through Mr Britling

A new life of Wells shows a man driven by dark forces, but Peter Ackroyd still admires his genius

This is the history of a self-made man, a writer who struggled out of poverty to leave his mark upon the moving age: it is also an account of a philanderer and anti-Semite who, according to the available evidence, held very peculiar ideas about genetic purity. Of course it is hard to think of any author, living or dead, who would seem immediately likeable writing comes out of conflict, or detachment, or obsession, and good taste has very little to do with it. It can hardly be stressed too often that the good writer is rarely, if ever, a good man — and only the vagaries of the literary bazaarism once taught in universities would lead anyone to believe that "moral values" are to be found in literature. De Sade, after all, was a better writer than Martin Tupper.

But to what side of that balance does H. G. Wells' incline? Certain salient facts are worth considering before venturing any judgment upon him. His parents were servants, and he began adult life as a shop assistant; no one knew as vividly as Wells the empty drudgery and limited possibilities of lower-middle-class life, which was why he spent all of his own time in reading, in absorbing, in learning. This fervent acquisition of knowledge was in part no more than the prompting of instinct — the instinct to be free — and the pleasures of science and literature were part of his more general aspiration for advancement.

But he had both the determination, and the ambition, to break out of the grey mist in which he



H. G. Wells and the cast of the 1935 film *Things to Come*: he feared mankind would destroy itself

**THE INVISIBLE MAN**  
The Life and Liberties  
of H. G. Wells  
By Michael Coren  
Bloomsbury, £20

genius and the significance of Wells. He was one of those genuine writers who also manage to be bestsellers because they divine something at the root of the popular imagination (Daphne du Maurier and Jules Verne are two others) and who as a result create enduring fables of contemporary life.

And then Coren comes, as any biographer must, to the private life. It is not a happy or particularly elevating story, since Wells' formidable will and energy were then directed towards the conquest of women rather than words. But much can be forgiven of one from

whom so much has come, and it is debatable whether his personal disabilities and emotional shortcomings should seriously affect any judgment of his artistic abilities.

Nevertheless his private idiosyncrasies must have played a large part in forming what some contemporaries called his "pernicious and wicked" views on social matters. On such subjects as eugenics and scientific totalitarianism, Arthur Conan Doyle was moved to describe his work as "vile and villainous". There is here a clear connection between his driven life and his angry writing: the general themes of Wells's social philosophy, described by Coren as "death, followed by resurrection, followed by obsessive organisation", sound remarkably like a haunted resumé of his own troubling life.

He was a great novelist, not a great philosopher, and his central mistake was to believe that both

aspects of his writing were somehow of equal value. Of course it is not simply his own mistake, and even in our time there are writers who like to consider themselves as leaders of opinion or significant contributors to public debate. The truth is that a butcher, or a postman, is likely to be a better judge of contemporary social issues: the opinions of the writer, in particular, tend to be fatally flawed by aesthetic attitudes or intellectual incompetence.

Wells suffered from the first of these faults and seemed always to be the prisoner of the frustration, and the rage of mediocrity, which he suffered as a youth. In many respects, as Coren notes, Wells remained a child; even at the height of his success, one can see the lineaments of the depressed and helpless adolescent. That is why he was driven — driven to succeed, driven to write, with all his restless and unstable energy spilling over into his frantic sexual adventures where perhaps another form of infantile consolation could be found.

Coren is not blind to Wells's faults but, despite a slightly apologetic preface, his depiction of them does not mitigate the truth of his account. This is an elegantly written biography, touching as it does upon the sources of Wells's creativity and upon that darkness which may lie at the centre of even the most luminous or brilliant writing. It succeeds in conveying the energy which suffused him, the energy which lifted him out of poverty and which eventually reinforced what might have been a rather shallow or easily exhausted genius. He knew as much himself and, despite his predilection for somewhat grandiose social abstractions, he was capable of very particular self-analysis: "... a driving quality that holds my instabilities together. I have more drive than strength, and little patience..." But this is what saved him, and what gives his best writing its enduring power.

# A princess goes P. C. shooting

Here is a rum book indeed from the stormy petrel of American Academe, dancing with derision over the intellectually correct and only doing it to annoy because she knows it teases, or at any rate gets her name into the papers. Camille Paglia made her name with *Sexual Personae*, her vast, argumentative, dodgy but impressive reinterpretation of Western culture from prehistory down to the end of the 19th century. She finished writing it in 1981, but it was turned down by seven major New York publishers, until Yale University Press recognised its unfashionable merits two years ago, just as

Philip Howard

**SEX, ART AND AMERICAN CULTURE**  
By Camille Paglia  
Viking, £16.99

Paglia herself had been kept out of the posh universities and forced to teach in an school. She is the daughter of Italian Catholic immigrants: chippy, clever and a butcher of sacred cows. For instance, her heroines include, not necessarily in this order, Madonna, Freud, Oscar Wilde, Elizabeth Taylor, homosexuals, one person of Jung, and Robert Mapplethorpe. Her hates include Derrida, Lévi-Strauss, Foucault and the other French trendies who were fashionable in American scholarship in the Seventies and Eighties, the intellectual Establishment, and whingeing anti-male feminists.

Her most famous sentence, which she quotes again in this book, runs: "If civilisation had been left in female hands, we would still be living in grass huts." Here, on Germaine Greer: "What happened to her? After three years, she turned into this drone, this whining, 'Woe is me, all the problems of the world!' Something went wrong with feminism." And: "American feminism's nosedive began when

Kate Millet, that imploding beanbag of poisonous self-pity, declared Freud a sexist." Young women who complain about date-rape are naive whingers ignorant of the dangerous glory of sex.

It is not necessary, or wise, to agree with all of this Paglia considers Augustus one of the greatest men in history. Another view is of a mean-minded apparition gangster who got lucky, not a patch on his grand-uncle, J. Caesar, who really was one of the great masculine, swarty men Paglia lusts after. She thinks of Elizabeth Taylor as the greatest actress in film history. I saw her Cleopatra as a Woolworth's shop assistant in her Maidenform bra, and am glad I do not sit next to Paglia in the cinema, because she screams her approval.

This collection of cold journalistic clichés rehashed, radio interviews, texts of seminars, and cartoons of Paglia would not have been made into a book if she had not become the *femme terrible* of the American media. Some of her sacred cows are made of straw, in this country, and increasingly in the United States. She is absurdly chesty about her sudden celebrity, and extravagantly way-out in her neo-conservative and anti-feminism. But she is a good polemical journalist as well as an interesting scholar, worth reading even in this patchy collection as an antidote to received wisdom.

As we go to press the publishers, Viking, have just announced that they are recalling Camille Paglia's *Sex, Art and American Culture* from bookshops for reacknowledging. Readers may have to wait until March 25, when the book will be reissued, to obtain a copy.

# The man in the Marshal's iron mask

Was our controversial war hero Tito really Tito? Or did he replace an earlier Tito, purged perhaps by Stalin? Did that earlier Tito, as I have heard, have a missing thumb? If so, his replacement didn't. Was Tito the illegitimate son of a Count, or a Hungarian Jew, or a freemason, or even a woman, as Evelyn Waugh suggested? Did he secretly go to Spain in the Civil War, there ruthlessly to purge dissidents, perhaps to be purged himself? Did he have 20 women, three acknowledged, 17 not, and generate 19 natural children?

Stevan Pavlovitch notes without endorsing nearly all these alluring rumours, and passes on with an enigmatic smile. He claims to have read all the books of substance, most of the trash too. He has not delved into the archives, some accessible, most not. He admits Tito is still a mystery to him.

Some such bafflement, if disappointing, is perhaps excusable when dealing with a man or woman who used some 70 known aliases, who extruded no less than eight versions of what he'd done in Stalin's purges, who suppressed or falsified or invented great chunks of his life, who "removed" all those who'd known him in youth and surrounded himself with young

disintegration of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire, something in their view worth preserving and socialising. They were in a way patriots for Franz Josef. Tito fought in the Austro-Hungarian army, initially against Serbia, was promoted, considered for a medal, wounded and taken prisoner by the Russians, who treated him with lazy indulgence — all facts later suppressed or distorted.

Tito's mother toogee was part Croatian *patok*, part Slovenian. This was overlaid by other languages he picked up on his travels, so that many doubted whether he was a Yugoslav at all.

Yugoslavia's disastrous nationalisms were in Marxist eyes (and Tito's created and fomented by the old order. Communist rule would sweep them all away. As we see, alas, it didn't. Pavlovitch does blame the communist tyranny for preventing or suppressing all integrative forces and developments which fell outside its own ideological control. He means the free market, culture, democracy, religion and so on, though not all these benign factors have invariably worked for harmony, least of all in Yugoslavia.

If not nationalism, then what inspired Tito? Was it Marxist ideology, of which he knew little but to which he held firmly nonetheless, knowing even less about anything else? For the ills of Marxism he prescribed more of the same, the hair of the rabid dog.

Was it revolutionary zeal? Pavlovitch suggests that in Tito's case "personal ambition led to revolutionary zeal, rather than the other way round." Was it thirst for blood, of which Tito shed plenty? Pavlovitch acquiesces him of "terror for its own sake". Tito accepted terror only as "an effective weapon if integrated in an overall plan". Ah, but has not terror, even if apparently purposeless, nonetheless a purpose? It demonstrates that the terrorist is, like Stalin, above pity and reason, a man never to be crossed. Was it greed for power and the good things of life, a determination to seize, augment and retain them at all costs? We are perhaps getting warmer.

Highly suggestive is Pavlovitch's portrait of the young Tito. We see him leaving home to better himself. His mother wanted him to be a priest. He preferred "better dressed callings" such as waiter or policeman. Were Yugoslav waiters, then, better dressed than priests? He moved from job to job, attended technical evening classes, popular with employers and teachers. He was determined to eat and dress well. Unlike the young Hitler, he adored Vienna, uniforms, officers, cats with music, pornographic films and all. He learnt to walk, ski and fence, thought several times of



Two faces of Tito: (left) as secretary of the Zagreb communists in 1928 when, aged 36, he was jailed for five years; (right) as marshal of the partisans in 1944, aged 52



# Language, truth and longing

Derwent May

**ONE OF THE FAMILY**  
By Wendy W. Fairry  
Norton, £15.95

The author of this book is a hitherto unknown daughter of the philosopher Sir Alfred Ayer. Even she did not know the truth about her paternity until four years ago, when she was already a woman of 46.

Her mother, the Hollywood gossip columnist Sheila Graham, had recently died. Mrs Fairry, as our author was by now called, had the identity of her natural father revealed to her after a dinner party in New York at which she was arranging her mother's memorial meeting. Her informant was Dee Wells, a former wife of Ayer's who was just about to marry him again.

The situation was very typical of Ayer's life. For most of his adult years, his superlative clarity of mind was only matched by his inextricably tangled relationships with women.

For Mrs Fairry, the revelation was a shock, yet not an entirely unwelcome one. Her own legal father was an Englishman who had hardly ever lived with her mother after they were married, and whom the young Wendy scarcely knew, though she had not seriously doubted that she was his daughter. On the other hand, she had met Ayer on visits to London as

with Ayer, raised the subject with him — and in February 1989 Mrs Fairry received from Ayer what was for her, essentially, a four-word letter: "I am your father".

She tells this story of the excitement and the sleuthing very well, and she tells the story of what happened next even better. Now she was swept up in this drama of her fathering. But Freddie, though willing enough to acknowledge her, remained quite detached from the whole series of events. When she arrived at his house in London in April he kissed her on both cheeks, gave her a little quiz about her knowledge of Jane Austen, and went upstairs.

She attended the wedding of Freddie and Dee, but scarcely felt a member of the wedding at all. When Freddie spoke of what had drawn him and Sheila Graham together when they met in New York in 1941, he was characteristically brisk: "Just mutual physical attraction, I suppose."

Of course, Ayer was by now old and ill — the previous year he had died, clinically, for a few moments, and wrote his famous newspaper article about the red light he saw when he was "dead". But those many people in London who knew

him will recognise the accuracy of his daughter's description of him.

There were also scores, of course, to settle with her mother, who had lied to her all her life. A long section in the middle of the book worries away at the question of what Sheila Graham was really like, but this is not so successful. Vignettes of her mother glimmer in and out of Mrs Fairry's mental wrestlings — especially the story of her mother's love-affair, before she met Ayer, with Scott Fitzgerald — but she is both too near to her mother and too self-preoccupied to see her clearly.

Eight weeks after his newly-acknowledged daughter's visit to him in England, Ayer really died. "My history as Freddie's daughter is the story of what didn't happen, the relationship I didn't have," she writes. She is finally forced to recognise that both her father and her mother were in fact monstrous egotists. Yet she is not sorry. They were exceptional people, and to her continuing amazement, she is the daughter of them both. "To know this," she concludes, "makes me somehow more securely myself". It has also enabled her at last to write her own book — and it is a genuinely fascinating one.

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Five nations' championship: England's manager throws down gauntlet while Ireland look to new playmaker

# Cooke's goal is to make England the world's best

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

Geoff Cooke, entering his sixth five nations' championship as England manager, has thrown down the gauntlet to the rest of the field in this year's tournament, which starts at the weekend. "Our aim is to put England at the top of the rugby playing world," he said. "It may be arrogant, we may be knocked off in this championship, but that's where we want to go."

England, whose players assembled at Richmond yesterday, play France at Twickenham on Saturday with a championship record of 15 victories, four defeats and a draw under Cooke's management and are unbeaten in the championship for two seasons.

Emphasising the problems connected with change in the game and the dedication of England's squad to sustained success, Cooke posed the question: "Look how well we are doing, why should we change?"

However, he could detect danger signs. "Are we becoming increasingly critical of criticism? Our success brings its own problems. Can we control change? There has been talk about the demands on the players' time. The game makes the demands. If we want to be among the best we have to match what the people at the top are doing. We can all choose to opt in or in an amateur game, to opt out."

Cooke acknowledged the problems that a home and away club league system will bring and, in his other rugby role as manager of the British Isles team to New Zealand this summer, the difficulty in finding an April weekend to bring the tour party together, when

league and cup commitments existed for all four home unions.

"But our job is to select winners," he said. "The England squad is totally dedicated to being the best. That doesn't mean they have the right to be successful but it does mean they have the character and the experience to work hard when things are not going well. There is pride in performance that sustains them when the going gets tough."

"Tremendous mental courage is required to go out and perform well in front of so many people. It's not easy to take calculated risks in such an atmosphere and that's the hardest part of the job of Dick Best [the coach] and my job, to encourage players not to be afraid of failure."

"On Saturday, if it's a tight game with little in it near the end, I think we will see England players wanting to get their hands on the ball, wanting to contribute towards the score which might win the game rather than trying to find somewhere to hide in case they make a mistake. The difference between being good and great is a little extra effort."

Cooke was addressing a dinner given by Save and Prosper, the investment house which has extended its seven-year sponsorship of English rugby. It is the sponsor of England's three international matches at Twickenham this season, and has been able to include the 1994 England-Wales international under its banner. That match has been the preserve of British Gas for eight years but they are ending rugby sponsorship after the game in Cardiff next month.



Pivotal role Malone has graduated from English student rugby to the full Irish side

# Malone steps in to give Ireland new direction

David Hands meets the latest man entrusted with the Ireland stand-off half's jersey and finds him ready to chance his arm to keep it

WHEN ligament damage ended Paul Dean's international career in 1989, the Ireland selectors believed they had found a replacement at stand-off half from the same country where Dean was injured — Australia.

For two seasons, Brian Smith suggested they were not wrong, though not to universal approval from the Irish public. But since Smith accepted an offer to return to Australia and play rugby league last March, Ireland have tried four stand-offs and found various reasons for discarding them.

Vincent Cunningham was the first, Ralph Keyes took over for the World Cup and then a brief flirtation with Derek McAleese was followed by a reversion to Peter Russell, who had slipped in for a cap in 1990.

Stand-off half is the pivotal position in any team. Since the selectors were also trying to decide whether Rob Saunders or Fergus Aherne was the better option at scrum half and to shore up a pack which found life increasingly difficult at the highest level, the pivots could hardly be blamed for not knowing whether they were coming or going. Mostly they were going.

On Saturday, yet another half-back combination will grace the green of Ireland when they play the Scots at Murrayfield. The selectors have gone back to Michael Bradley, whose international career at scrum half began in 1984, and have given him a young spring to nurture — Niall Malone.

When Malone and Paul Burke were named in the trial teams earlier this month, it was clear that youth was to have its day, even if Russell — who let nobody down on a difficult tour of New Zealand last summer — remained as a fall-safe. Malone is 21, fresh

from student rugby in England; Burke, 19, with half a season's senior experience for London Irish behind him.

The trial turned Malone's way: he scored two tries and a total of 18 points in a comfortable win for the senior XV. After winning three schools caps for Ireland in 1989, two of them victories, his arrival at Loughborough University to study sports science liberated his game. "Although we found it hard against the senior sides, we were all young and wanted to get involved and that encouraged the open game," he said. While there he played at nearby Moseley in the first defeat

England suffered at under-21 level, kicking five penalties and a dropped goal in Ireland's 22-18 win behind a pack which won the honours.

That will be the key to Saturday. Last month he played behind a Probables pack which dominated in the trial.

"I found the University match a strange experience. I was almost as though people weren't watching because the noise was constant rather than ebbs and flows with play. It won't be like that on Saturday, I'm sure. The crowd will get behind the players more. They will if this match resembles the teams' past two five nations' meetings at Murrayfield, which Scotland won 37-21 and 28-25. Ireland, for their part, would be happy with 3-0 and the knowledge that Malone can offer them the continuity any country requires at half back.

"He played the game how I would like to," Malone, a cheerful extrovert, said. "He could take on defences and make tries out of nothing. If the chance to run comes along on Saturday I will try to take it, but I don't think people in

## SPORTS LETTERS

### Liverpool need new manager

From Mr Jonathan Cohen

Sir, We Liverpool supporters have enjoyed too much success for too long to expect it as of right, or even to take it for granted. But we are appalled by Graeme Souness's destructive influence at the club.

Like many others, I rejoiced initially when Souness succeeded Dalglish. The memory of Souness's swashbuckling talent in Liverpool's red and the number, if not the style, of his successes as Rangers manager, blinded us to his ruthlessness as a player, his regular courting of public disagreement with a tetchy intransigence, and his overwhelming ambition.

But mistakes have to be recognised, and, however costly, put right. After all, the payoff to remove Souness would probably be little more than his loss for the club over his investment in Saunders.

Liverpool should now dismiss a manager whose record reveals a combative, abrasive style; the indecise handling of man-management and PR; inconsistent and eccentric team selection; a ruthless discarding of those who do not agree with, or fit into; his plans; an apparent inability ever to conceive that he could be wrong, making him an impossible "employer" to serve or play for and a difficult

colleague to work with.

All of this has produced relatively poor results; more injuries than ever before; an alarming lack of team spirit; an atmosphere around the club which would be more appropriate in a morgue; a disillusioned staff; a dissatisfied board of directors, even allowing for his inexperienced chairman; a sceptical press; and disenchanted supporters, even allowing for another huge attendance last Saturday.

For Souness "fining in" seems not to be an option — so why keep him?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHNNY COHEN,  
385 Woolton Road,  
Liverpool 25.

### Better answer

From Mr Geoffrey C. Lee

Sir, The solution to Rangers's frustration of isolated excellence lies not in David Miller's reference (January 7) to some mythical European league, but in them and Celtic joining the so-far-English Premier League, thus making a British league at last worthy of the adjective "super".

Yours sincerely,  
G. LEE,  
63 Hotham Road, SW15.

### No stranger to turmoil

From Mr J. Dutton

Sir, Apropos Peter Ball's report (January 11) about the possibility of inter-communal strife jeopardising England's cricket tour of India, I discover that this is not the first time that the team manager, Keith Fletcher, has been faced with such a dilemma.

His name appears in the guest list of a drinks party I hosted as Acting High Commissioner in Colombo in January 1969 when the MCC touring party was due to proceed to Pakistan.

Afterwards, several of the team stayed to dinner, including the captain, Colin Cowdrey (not Tony Lewis), and Tom Graveney. The avidity with which they listened to the radio news of rioting in Pakistan and the somewhat anguished discussion of the potential risks of continuing the tour is still a vivid memory.

My sympathy went out to them, as it does to their successors, when their fate is so much in the hands of others, and spare a thought for the High Commission officials who have to give advice. It can be an onerous responsibility.

Yours faithfully,  
JIM DUTTON,  
Cockchurch,  
Tyrrells Wood,  
Leatherhead,  
Surrey.

### Earlier century

From Mr Tim Milne

Sir, The dispute about Graham Gooch's number of centuries (reports, January 6, 7) recalls another remarkable source of disagreement.

In 1925 Jack Hobbs was having a terrific season. By mid-July he had scored 12 centuries, and was within one of W.G. Grace's total of 126. Then his form partly deserted him. For four weeks he found himself the most talked of man in England, but the next century would not come. And then, at Taunton in mid-August, it did.

As a schoolboy I saw the innings — or rather the 91 he had scored by close of play on Saturday. On the Monday he reached the century and, thus passing W.G.'s total.

That was history until 1981, when Wisden, following research by the Association of

### Squash players do have heart in the game

From Mr Chris Walker and Mr Tony Hands

Sir, Mr C.M.N. Wilson (Sports Letters, January 7) suggests that the English squash players boycotting the national championships, which start in Cheshire today, are guilty of a greedy attitude in hard times. On behalf of the British Squash Professionals Association we would like to correct him.

Firstly, the professional side of squash has grown immensely in the past ten years and we are now enjoying its most prosperous years. However, it is still not in the league of tennis or golf, and there are only about 50 professionals in the world able to make a living purely from competition.

By a combination of poor marketing and misguided presentation, the Squash Rackets Association (SRA), of England, has performed poorly in the game with its national championships this year. We, the players, have carried the SRA through previous championships when

sponsorship was not available, but we now need to voice our opinions and be treated as professional sportsmen.

Our only demand is the abolition of the outdated SRA ruling that "in order to be considered for England selection, and be included in the English ranking list, a player must compete in the national championships".

This may well have been acceptable a decade ago, when there was a handful of competitive tournaments, but today, when the top players are involved in upwards of 15 tournaments and 20 further competitive matches a year, it is surely possible to get some idea of players' form to select an English team.

However, the players would be entitled to complain that the SRA is not putting the final stages of the competition on the spectacular, all-transparent showcourt that every other major tournament now uses; and about the inexplicable decision to exclude Welsh, Scottish and Irish players from a tournament that has always been a highly respected British closed championship until devalued this year by an unpopular English closed.

Mr Wilson accuses us of having a "sad" attitude, but he, a former Scottish international of such standing in the game, would have been exiled from this year's English championship.

It is the SRA which has adopted a "sad" attitude to our national event. Is it fair to be forced possibly to lose money, particularly in a time of recession?

The heart of British squash players is very much in the game and its future. Even though we reap relatively small rewards for our efforts, we love our sport, have devoted our lives to it and are proud of our achievements.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRIS WALKER,  
TONY HANDS,  
Apartment 4,  
Claudius Court,  
Colchester, Essex.

### Good practice

From Mr Geoff Hewitt

Sir, The techniques attributed to Jeff Probyn (article, January 5) would come as little surprise to any prop playing 20 years ago. In fact they were considered good practice. It was also recognised that a

good little 'un was better than a good big 'un: the 5ft 8in prop had a built-in advantage over the 6ft prop, who could only overcome it by superior strength and technique.

However, with all the law changes in the intervening years, it is difficult for a smaller prop to push effectively — ie, with his back horizontal — and stay within the laws, since the natural result is to pull a larger prop down and/or to disrupt the opposition's binding. This, combined with referees' reluctance to punish the scrum half for a crooked feed, has largely removed the value of good front-row technique as a means of winning the ball.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFF HEWITT,  
13 Briar Lane,  
Carshalton, Surrey.

From Mr Ken Gregory  
Sir, There is little point now in tight-head props trying to restrict the hooker's view of the ball on his side's put-in. The hooker strikes for the ball immediately after giving a tap signal to his scrum half: he has no need to see it coming in.

Balls are won against the head when the hooker, with the support of the tight-head and the rest of the scrum, is able to put strong downward pressure on his opposite number, making it difficult for

him to lift his feet.

The main job of the tight-head, as you note, is to drive a wedge into the opposition front row to allow his pack to increase the pressure on the opposition scrum — and to drive them back as they hook the ball from the scrum.

This is Probyn's strength, and the beneficiaries are the England back row. Long may he continue in the side.

Yours faithfully,  
KEN GREGORY,  
80 Cecil Park,  
Pinner,  
Middlesex.

### England's oldest

From Mr N.O. Durdant

HOLLAMBAY  
Sir, Recent claims (Sports Letters, December 24; Diary, January 8) to the distinction of being accepted as England's oldest cricket club call for a pronouncement from Lord's on the question and comment from the three clubs mentioned — Hampshire's Hambledon, Kent's Sevenoaks Vine and Sussex's Chelvington and Ripe.

Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL DURDANT  
HOLLAMBAY,  
The Outfield,  
Chartway,  
Sevenoaks, Kent.

## YACHTING

# Skippers may dispute compensation award

BY KEITH WHEATLEY

BRITISH Steel II, the yacht dismasted west of Cape Horn in the British Steel Challenge race, is closing towards Hobart, but her imminent arrival could cause problems for race officials.

In the hours immediately after she lost the mast, another competitor, Heath Insured, altered course to meet British Steel II and transferred diesel fuel needed to allow the stricken yacht to motor to New Zealand. In London, race officials announced a compensatory time allowance to Heath of 16 hours for her diversion.

In a race as tight as this, that sum could be crucial. Fellow skippers are anxious that humanitarian assistance may have been over-generous, rewarded independently, rival captains John Chittenden, Vivien Cherry and Pete Goss each calculated the allowance due and came up with an identical answer of only six hours.

"My instant gut reaction,

even when we were still out at sea, was that 16 hours was too much, far too much," Goss, the skipper of Hobart Lager, said. "It was a decision made in London by people who weren't there, didn't know the scene and didn't have half the information at their fingertips."

John Chittenden, the overall race leader aboard Nuclear Electric and winner of the second leg from Rio de Janeiro, had similar views. "I certainly think that 16 hours is too much, but I hope they will reconsider before making a final announcement," he said.

The race committee meets formally over the weekend to adjudicate on this and other controversial matters, including the possible issue of new mainsails (notwithstanding sailing instructions that said each boat had only one set to mast the entire 28,000-mile race). Some skippers are in a mood to protest over both tie and canvas.

# Frenchman tries to steal march on British couple

BY BARRY PICKTHALL

THE 65-knot gale that blasted the south coast yesterday forced Peter Blake and Robin Knox-Johnston to put off their 85th catamaran round the world record hopes for at least another day.

The ENZA New Zealand co-skippers are in a race against time to start their 80-day record attempt because news from France yesterday suggested that the yachtman, Oliver de Kersauson, intends to embark from Brest on a rival record attempt this weekend to make the most of these strong winds.

To Blake and Knox-Johnston, as well as another French crew led by Bruno Peyron, de Kersauson has become the fly in this particular ointment because he refuses to obey the rules laid down by the Jules Verne trophy organisers which prohibits outside assistance.

Unlike the other two crews who will not be ready until another week, de Kersauson intends to rely on specialist

weather routers based in France to help plot the fastest course around the world. While Peyron has agreed to make a race of it and wait for Blake and Knox-Johnston to be ready, de Kersauson's efforts to beat the gun is seen as another act of poor sportsmanship.

"We won't even mention his name. He is not playing by the rules," Knox-Johnston said. Yet, if de Kersauson and his 90ft trimaran, Charel, are first to beat the 80-day barrier with or without assistance from a weather router, it will be hard for the rest of the world not to recognise the achievement.

Lawrie Smith's hopes of building a maxi yacht for this year's Whitbread Round the World Race have been dashed. The Teesside Development Corporation, which had planned to sponsor his British entry, has pulled out after failing to raise support for the £7 million challenge from companies in the North East.

Answers from page 44

TECLA

(b) The proprietary name of a make of artificial pearl, Evelyn Waugh, *Vile Bodies*: "Heirlooms of priceless value among Tecla pearls." Tecla pearls, imitation or reconstructed pearls, imitation or reconstructed sapphires, Isaac Blumenthal, Hendon, Middlesex, merchant and manufacturer.

PADANG

(a) An open, grassy space, a field, especially a playing-field, also scrub vegetation, from the Malay word: "E.W. Birch was one of those whose delight it was to see a padang, a shady playing-field, laid out in every kampung of the State."

MERBAU

(b) A hardwood timber obtained from *Intsia bijuga* or *Intsia palembanica*, of the family Leguminosae, trees native to Malaysia and Indonesia, also the tree itself: "Merbau is used for all kinds of high-grade construction on land, for furniture, and for sleepers."

BUTYROMETER

(a) An instrument for estimating the percentage of butter-fat in milk, from the Greek *butyro* - butter - *meter* a measure: "The butyrometer is extremely useful, alike for measuring periodically the fat-producing capacity of individual cows in a herd, for rapidly ascertaining the percentage of fat in milk delivered to factories, etc."

### SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

Solution: taking the black queen allows ... Rc1 - mating and 1 Bx2 is met by ... Qd4 - also mating. However, white can win material with the amazing 1 Qf8 - Rg8 2 Nd7 and black has no good move.

is lawful

few become competent



# St Jovite is head boy in class of under-achievers

By RICHARD EVANS  
RACING CORRESPONDENT

ST JOVITE was yesterday officially declared the outstanding horse of 1992, but the overall lack of quality made the latest Flat season one of the worst for years.

The publication of the international classifications showed that in spite of the sparkling performances of Lyric Fantasy and the Khalid Abdulla-owned trio of Zafonic, Tenby and Armiger, the two-year-olds were generally a moderate bunch — and the three-year-olds no better.

Subotica, winner of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, enjoyed the dubious distinction of sharing the title of worst winner of Europe's premier middle-distance race since 1977, along with Detroit (1980) and Carroll House (1989).

The rating of 125 awarded to Dr Devous is 71b below the average for a Derby winner. Only Quest For Fame, the 1990 Derby winner, has received a lower rating (123) since the current classifications began 16 years ago.

St Jovite's runaway success

in the Irish Derby and, more particularly, in the all-aged King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes gained him a rating of 135 — 61b behind Dancing Brave but in line with the average for the top-rated three-year-old in recent years — and arguably he was the best horse in the northern hemisphere.

However, controversy immediately surrounded the 101b gap in the official ratings between St Jovite and Dr Devous.

On the four occasions the two classic colts met, Dr Devous beat St Jovite by two lengths at Epsom and a short head in the Irish Champion

Stakes. St Jovite beat a sickening Dr Devous 12 lengths at the Curragh, while a length separated the pair in the Arc where St Jovite finished fourth, two places ahead of his old rival.

Geoffrey Gibb, the Jockey Club's senior handicapper, said the gulf in the ratings was due to "St Jovite's impressive win, beating older horses, in the King George at Ascot in July."

"We would certainly consider that the meeting of the generations is the acid test of one against the other. The older horses in the King George had been remarkably consistent, so there was no fluke about that result."

Despite his explanation, connections of the recently exported Dr Devous have reason to feel aggrieved.

Although more two-year-olds qualified for inclusion in the classifications — 69 compared to the worst figure of 55 for 1991 — only 13 (19 per cent) were rated 115 plus, compared to a five-year average of 27 per cent.

Gibb said: "The two-year-olds have been a disappointing lot this year. You have got three potentially good colts and certainly an outstanding filly in Lyric Fantasy."

"The numbers included in the classifications are very satisfactory but the quality is not very high."

Zafonic (rated 125) was the champion two-year-old following his success in the Dewhurst Stakes where only one other group one winner ran, while Armiger was rated 11b inferior following an impressive success in a "sub-standard" Racing Post Trophy.

Only two clear top-rated juveniles since 1977 (El Gran Senor in 1983 and Reference Point in 1986) have gone on to enjoy classic success.

Among the three-year-olds, only 17 qualified for the 120 plus rating, the lowest number. Even with the four-year-old plus horses showing their best figure — 23 — in this range since 1986, the combined total of 40 is the lowest on record.

A year after being the top British two-year-old colt and leading filly respectively, Rodrigo De Triano and Marling showed the value of being campaigned seriously as juveniles by going on to greater success as three-year-olds. Rodrigo De Triano was top-rated intermediate colt while Marling was top miler of her age group.

Just why 1992 produced mediocre two and three-year-olds is hard to fathom. Gibb suggested competition among top horses is less intense than in the past "and that has an effect on the level of ratings."

Year Top Team Derby Winner  
1988 Shalimar Dancer 125, Yacuzzi 125  
1989 El Gran Senor 136, Salsotto 128  
1990 Slip Anchor 125, Slip Anchor 125  
1991 Dancing Brave 141, Shalimar 134  
1992 Reference Point 135, Reference Point 135  
1993 Vindicta 125, Vindicta 125  
1994 Old Vicar 124, Old Vicar 124  
1995 Doyler 123, Doyler 123  
1996 Galloway 121, Galloway 121  
1997 St Jovite 125, Dr Devous 125



Pick of the crop: St Jovite impressed with his King George victory

## Call for a pyjama rebellion

By IVO TENNANT

A RESOLUTION opposing the introduction of coloured clothing for Sunday League games next season is to be put before Kent's annual general meeting. Roy Edey, the proposer, is also trying to persuade members of other counties to put pressure on the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB).

Kent were one of the counties originally opposed to the plan, but are bound by TCCB rules to introduce it. A close vote is expected at the meeting to be held on March 15.

Edey feels that if sufficient counties were to pass identical resolutions, the TCCB would be unable to implement the experiment. "Clearly, a majority would be needed," Edey said. "Numerous members from other clubs have already written to me in support."

Kent say they cannot act unilaterally and have to abide by TCCB rules. So Edey has changed his resolution from one of no confidence in the TCCB to opposing it on the grounds that the clothing would do "untold harm to the integrity of county cricket."

ENGLAND'S fortunes received a further setback in the Feroz Shah Kotla stadium here yesterday. They were outplayed in their first one-day match of the tour, the Indian Board President's XI beating them by nine wickets with 14 balls to spare.

The margin of victory was large and it was a fair reflection of the cricket. Apart, inevitably, from the captain, England's batting once again failed to function, but the bad news this time was that the bowling and fielding too were way below par. Sidhu put the bowlers to the sword under the shadow of the Red Fort, hitting 11 fours and three sixes in an unbeaten 130.

He has now scored 222 runs against the England team in three innings and has been dismissed only once. John Emburey has already seen more than enough of him, but England are likely to see a lot more of him before the end of this tour.

It is the batting, though, which continues to offer the most cause for concern. Gooch has begun the tour in his usual dominating form and Gattling, too, has already planted his banner firmly. With the help of an early dropped catch, Stewart had a half-decent innings yesterday,

FROM PETER BALL IN DELHI

but Fairbrother, Smith and Hick are all still waiting for their first substantial innings.

None of them is playing Indian spinners with any certainty. With the occasional spin of Ajay Sharma supporting Maninder Singh and Rajesh Chauhan, the slow bowlers claimed four of England's eight wickets yesterday. In all, 22 of the 30 England wickets to fall on the tour have gone to the spinners.

By contrast, Tufnell and Emburey have had an unhappy time. Sidhu once again went for Emburey yesterday as if determined to hit him out of cricket for good. With Sharma chipping in too, Emburey has now been hit for 12 sixes in three innings.

Perhaps it is a good thing that the Indian board has dug its heels in and that the next game on the tour will be another practice match rather than a one-day international on Saturday. Even the one-day international in Jaipur on Monday may come too soon for comfort for England in their present form.

"Sidhu and Sharma are good players and they batted well," Gooch said, "but our all-round performance was way below standard."

Yesterday was Lohri, the Punjabi equivalent of Christmas day, which is reputedly the coldest day of the year. It felt like it, more Derby in April than Delhi, although for a time the England batting provided some warmth after an early escape for Stewart. He edged Zaidi's outswinger at a comfortable height to first slip, only for Mongia to dive across and tip it round the post. After that let off, and one or two alarms for Gooch, who edged one no-ball to Mongia

and lost his middle stump to another, England prospered. Gooch's bat again looked broad as he hooked, drove and forced the ball away through the covers. Stewart had also set off at a high pace and 83 runs had come in 16 overs when Kuruvilla sent Stewart's middle stump cartwheeling back 25 yards.

Had we but known it, that was to be England's high point. A Lucknow astrologer forecast that Smith would either enjoy a magnificent tour or a very poor one. With his heavy-footed uncertainty against spin, his readiness to call the tour off when the rains flared in Bombay and Ahmedabad, and his lack of appetite for flying the signs do not appear propitious. Yesterday he was beaten by a beauty from Maninder, which pinched middle and hit off.

The next wicket was the crucial one, for while Gooch was there England seemed set for a sizable total. But with a century beckoning he failed to get to the pitch of an off break from Chauhan and was bowled through his drive.

With his departure the innings fell apart as four wickets went down for 15 in five overs. There was some sympathy for Fairbrother, who was adjudged leg-before sweeping to a ball which looked to have pitched outside leg stump, and for Gattling, who was run out by Maninder's swoop and throw.

Reeve and Emburey, improvising characteristically, came to the rescue to give England a reasonable total to defend. But the bowlers never remotely looked capable of defending it as Sidhu set about them, only Jarvis extracting any life. He was a model of economy.

ENGLAND XI		INDIA XI	
*G A Gooch b Chauhan	88	1: Vaidya 5-0-21-0; Maninder 10-1-36-1;	
R A Smith b Maninder	75	Chauhan 10-0-23-2; Sharma 8-1-21-2;	
R A Smith b Maninder	75	BOARD PRESIDENT'S XI	
N H Fairbrother b Zaidi	17	S S Bhatia b Gooch b Lewis	130
G A Hick b Sharma	17	N S Bhatia not out	130
D A Reeve not out	24	S S Bhatia not out	130
N W Gattling not out	14	S S Bhatia not out	130
C J Lewis b Sharma	14	S S Bhatia not out	130
F A J Duffin b Zaidi	1	S S Bhatia not out	130
J E Emburey not out	24	S S Bhatia not out	130
Gones b T. D. S. b R. B.	21	S S Bhatia not out	130
Total 88 wickets, 80 overs	248	S S Bhatia not out	130
P W Jarvis did not bat		S S Bhatia not out	130
FULL OF WICKETS: 1-88, 2-113, 3-169, 4-170, 5-172, 6-184, 7-205, 8-222.		S S Bhatia not out	130
BOWLING: Kuruvilla 10-0-50-1; Zaidi 7-0-34-		S S Bhatia not out	130

## ICE SKATING

### Outsiders move into early lead

FROM MICHAEL COLEMAN IN HELSINKI

A FINN, about 6ft 6in in his socks, and a British girl laid on a treat at the European championships yesterday when the men's contest started. The Finn, Oula Jaaskelainen, never better than twelve before and the last of 29 men to take the ice, ended up an incredible second to the unexpected leader, Dmitri Dmitrenko, of the Ukraine. Two of the nine judges made Jaaskelainen first. The locals could not believe what they were seeing.

The British judge, Vanessa Riley, who once awarded Surya Bonaly, a low mark of four, was one who voted for him. Her Finnish colleague placed him sixth. Riley also marked Dmitrenko, the eventual winner of this opening technical programme, tenth. The Ukrainian is a former world junior champion.

Jaaskelainen stood out of his socks, with good technical efforts in a triple lutz-double toe loop combination and a solo triple flip. His artistry, too, was remarkable.

The favourites, Alexei Urmanov, of Russia, and Philippe Candeloro, of France, stumbled over their triple axels and came fourth and sixth before tomorrow's free programme. The technical section counts for a third of the marks.

Steven Cousins, to his credit, also opted for an attempted triple axel-double toe loop combination. He failed, but his following triple lutz was a beauty and to finish ninth in company which is rapidly improving was praiseworthy. It will be difficult for Cousins to improve on his seventh position of last year. On the advice of his coach, Alex



Where did that one go? Emburey peers into the distance as Sidhu strikes again

## RUGBY LEAGUE

### Oldham in debt despite turning loss into profit

OLDHAM have transformed a £216,000 loss in 1990-1 into a profit of £119,000 last season, yet they remain one of several clubs engaged in financial brinkmanship (Christopher Irvine writes).

Oldham are still £835,000 in debt, despite selling their training ground at Watersheddings, putting the greyhound stadium on the market, reducing players' contracts, wages and signing on fees, and making a £90,000 profit on 27 transfer deals last year.

Ian Carr, Oldham's secretary, said: "The debt burden makes it extremely difficult to operate the club as we would like. We've reduced overall costs but income fell with the return to the second division."

Oldham's plight is not yet as desperate as Swinton's and Leigh's, who are run by administrators. Many more are

struggling, while the major clubs also have problems. Widnes can no longer realistically afford Jonathan Davies. But which other clubs are secure enough to take over his £70,000-a-year contract?

St Helens are leading a campaign for compensation by the Rugby Football League for players hurt on international duty. Their winger, Anthony Sullivan, sustained a serious knee injury during Wales' win in France last month. Sullivan, who will remain in plaster for another three weeks, was yesterday ruled out of the Wales squad for the World Sevens in Sydney next month, and will miss at least the first two rounds of the Challenge Cup.

Salford have failed to agree a deal with Leeds for Shaun Wahne, their international forward.

## Satellite channels to merge

Eurosport and Screensport, the satellite television channels, propose to merge to provide one all-sports service that will be available throughout Europe.

Both channels made financial losses and it is hoped that the new one, to be called Eurosport, will become profitable more quickly than if they remained separate. The European Community and the European Broadcasting Union must approve the merger.

## Clouded view

Sliding: Yesterday's practice session for the women's World Cup downhill race, scheduled to be held at Cortina d'Ampezzo tomorrow, was cancelled because of fog. The men's event, scheduled for Adelboden and Weengen, Switzerland, next week, have been called off.

## Captain resigns

Golf: John Roger Jones yesterday resigned as Welsh international team captain due to ill health. Jones, 48, a former Walker Cup selector and twice Welsh amateur champion, has been dogged by illness since last autumn, requiring regular hospital treatment.

## End of the road

Athletics: A recurring ankle injury has Ian McCombie, England's leading road walker, to retire. He won bronze medals at the 1986 and 1990 Commonwealth Games.

## Costly punch

Rugby union: Phil Fincher, the Maesteg prop, was yesterday banned for eight weeks by the Welsh Rugby Union's disciplinary committee after being sent off during a Swalec Cup match on December 19 for an "unprovoked punch".

## Show of form

Cricketer: Keith Arthurton warmed up for the first match of the World Series Cup final against Australia on Saturday with an explosive 94 as West Indies beat a Country XI by 51 runs at Newcastle.

## Flying along

Cycling: Olga Slusareva, of Russia, set a world indoor flying-start kilometre record of 1min 04.50sec on the 1980 Olympic track in Moscow.

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Everton return to relegation issues

# Defeat condemns Kendall to bleak finish to the season

By LOUISE TAYLOR

HOWARD Kendall has nothing to look forward to this season, bar a possible fight against relegation, after his team's 2-1 defeat by Wimbledon in their third round FA Cup replay at Goodison Park on Tuesday night.

The Everton manager's team is out of both domestic cup competitions, having been eliminated from the Coca-Cola Cup last month, and are languishing in seventeenth position in the Premier League.

Wimbledon will be away to either Aston Villa or Bristol Rovers in their third-round replay at Twerton Park was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch last night — thanks to goals from Fashanu — celebrating his return after a roublesome back injury, and Earle. Watson replied for Everton but it was too little too late and certainly not sufficient to satisfy a disappointing crowd of 15,000.

With Southall suspended,



FA CUP

Kearton, an Australian who had hoped to play for Liverpool but took a wrong turn and ended up at Goodison, made his debut in goal and was at fault for Fashanu's opener.

There were more than 19,000 spectators at Turf Moor and they were euphoric when the second division team, Burnley, took the lead against Sheffield United through Heath, but Deane answered with a headed hat-trick — his first goals since October. Littlejohn then contributed United's fourth before Monington made it 4-2.

United will be at home to Hartlepool United in the next round.

Peter Shilton's Plymouth Argyle gained little joy from their trip to Ipswich Town, who won 3-1 to earn a trip to

Tranmere Rovers. Castle put Plymouth ahead, only for Thompson, Dozzell and Whitton, with a penalty, to cancel out that advantage.

Last year's losing finalists, Sunderland, prevailed 2-0 at Notts County, who have won only one of their last 15 games. Cunningham and Goodman scored for Sunderland to increase the pressure on Neil Warnock, the County manager who, a year ago, was strongly rumoured to be on the point of becoming manager at Roker Park. Coincidentally, 20 years ago, when Sunderland beat Leeds United at Wembley to win the Cup, they opened their 1973 campaign by overcoming Notts County.

Kenny Dalglish will not have to face his window cleaner in the fourth round. Martine, the non-League club, managed by Roly Howard when he is not cleaning windows in the Southport area where Dalglish has his home, lost 3-1 to Crewe Alexandra. Dario Gradi's side is next at home to Dalglish's Blackburn Rovers.

Swansea City triumphed 5-4 on penalties in a replay at Oxford United — it had been 2-2 after extra-time — and now entertain Grimsby Town. The turnstiles will be clicking at Rotherham United. They are due a fourth-round visit from Newcastle United — their reward for winning 1-0 at Northampton Town.

In the first division, Swindon Town drew 0-0 at home to Birmingham City. Birmingham had Gayle sent off after an altercation with Taylor.



Back on target: Deane ends his goal famine with a hat-trick against Burnley.

## Bristol clubs rained off

THE FA Cup third-round replay between Bristol Rovers and Aston Villa, due to be played last night, had to be postponed because of a waterlogged pitch and will now take place next Wednesday.

The decision that the pitch at Twerton Park was unplayable was made by the match referee, Martin Bodenham, after a morning inspection.

Luton Town's managing director, David Kohler, was among an army of volunteers

who joined groundstaff in a vain attempt to clear floodwater from the pitch at Kenilworth Road in time to allow the third-round tie against Bristol City to go ahead.

The match, eventually called off two hours before the scheduled kick-off time, will also be played next Wednesday.

The Autoglass Trophy match between Stoke City and Barnet also fell victim to the weather.

## Morrissey enjoys a change in fortune

By KEITH PIKE

JOHN Morrissey still has some way to go if he is to emulate his father, but the Tranmere Rovers winger, whose two goals and sparkling skills helped knock Oldham Athletic out of the FA Cup on Tuesday, is not short of motivation.

Johnny Morrissey was a member of the Everton side beaten by Jeff Astle's goal for West Bromwich Albion in the 1968 Cup final — playing alongside the likes of Howard Kendall and Joe Royle, now the Oldham manager — and, two years later, he won a League championship medal.

His son, born just up the road from Goodison at Crosby and an Everton fanatic as a youngster, seemed set to enjoy an equally illustrious career.

But with Everton now under Kendall's management, about to embark on the most successful period in their history in the mid-Eighties, the roof fell in on Morrissey Jr. Kendall let him

landed the FA Cup in 1984 and European Cup Winners' Cup a year later. Morrissey, meanwhile, played just ten games for Wolverhampton Wanderers before joining Tranmere — then in the old fourth division — for a knock-down £8,000. It seemed his chance had gone.

But, for the next ten days at least, Morrissey can once again enjoy the limelight and dream of what might yet be. "I'm still only 27 and feel my best years are to come," he said. "I would love another chance to play in the big time, in the Premier League. I think I have the ability."

His goalkeeping touch on Tuesday surprised even the club's regular supporters. His first goal — his fifth for Tranmere — was an instinctive 40-yard lob over a stranded goalkeeper, his second a precise finish after eluding three defenders.

With John King having guided Tranmere from the depths of the fourth division to the brink of the Premier League in five years, Ipswich Town, Tranmere's visitors on fourth-round day on January 23, have been warned.

## Return trip the ticket for Wright

By LOUISE TAYLOR

IAN Wright unlocked the door to the Palace for Arsenal on Tuesday night. By scoring both goals in their 2-0 Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final win against Nottingham Forest at Highbury, Wright earned his team a two-legged semi-final against Crystal Palace. Blackburn Rovers play Ipswich Town or Sheffield Wednesday in the other tie.

The first leg will coincide with Wright's return from a three-match suspension imposed by the Football Association after he was identified

on television film, aiming a punch at David Howells, of Tottenham Hotspur, during a stormy north London derby last month.

Wright was a Palace player until his £2.5 million move north of the river 15 months ago. The England international has now taken his goal tally to 17 for the season — more than half the total scored by Arsenal.

While he is being under-studied on the pitch by Kevin Campbell, Wright says he will aim to keep a low profile after the adverse publicity about his suspension.

Regarding Arsenal's semi-final opponents, he said: "I still love Palace and always wish them well — but not in the Coca-Cola Cup."

Alan Smith, another of Arsenal's strikers, faces expensive dental repair work after receiving an accidental elbow in the face from Carl Tiler.

If it was not Smith's or Forest's night, it was also a bad evening for Terry Wilson, the Nottingham midfielder whose long-standing knee injury flared up again. Wilson has made only six first-team appearances in the past two years.

Everton have not been invited to stage any fixtures during the European championship finals in 1996. When the Football Association's Europe 96 committee meets on February 16, it will confirm Anfield, the home of Liverpool, as the venue for all matches to be staged on Merseyside.

Although both clubs had asked to be considered as potential hosts for group fixtures, the FA was impressed by the facilities at Anfield, particularly the hospitality suites in the Centenary Stand and the promise of on-site parking.

## Rebels' cause likely to carry the day

CELTIC last week announced their intention to defect from the Super League to vote in favour of the SFL blueprint, claiming they were "always uneasy" about leaving the existing body. But the SSL held out an olive branch yesterday by making it clear that Celtic will still be welcome, despite their backing for the rival plan.

Celtic reaffirmed their voting intentions at an SSL board meeting yesterday, but the other nine clubs — Rangers, Aberdeen, Dundee United, Heart of Midlothian, St

Johnstone, Hibernian, Partick Thistle, Motherwell and Dunfermline — stood firm. If they show the same unity in the ballot this afternoon, the SFL proposal will not reach the required two-thirds majority.

A statement issued by the SSL said: "The other nine members of the SSL remain convinced of the need for radical and permanent change in the structure of the game in Scotland. Accordingly, the SFL proposals will be defeated at a special meeting to be held tomorrow (today). The Super League application

for membership of the SFA incorporating detailed rules of the new league structure will be submitted by January 29."

The Scottish League had hoped that clubs such as Motherwell, Partick and St Johnstone might have jumped on Celtic's bandwagon to help ward off the Super League threat. But it seems that the show of unity yesterday

will allow the rebels to carry the day.

Despite the friction between the Super League and the Scottish League, clubs want dialogue to continue.

## TABLE TENNIS

# Confusion leads to bickering over disputed glue rule

By RICHARD EATON

ENGLAND'S 4-2 victory over Holland at St Austell on Tuesday was notable less for ensuring safety in the super division of the European League but for the several hours of acrimony over the glue ban. It took from breakfast until after lunch to agree with the Dutch coach, Li Gishu, briefly threatening that his team would not take part.

During the match there were suspicions that some players might have cheated and used illegal "fast glues", providing an unfair advantage in the speed of ball off bat. It even appeared from gestures that one English player might have been accusing his opponent of just this.

What is certain is that the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) has left national associations with an almost insoluble dilemma in trying to administer the rule imposed suddenly before Christmas because of reports of "serious" health hazards, while the movement to abandon it grows.

There are rumours that the Germans are considering allowing "fast glues" in the European Nations Cup in Karlsruhe starting tomorrow, and the professional players' association, the CTFP, has reportedly written to the ITTF asking for the permanent

reinstatement of fast glues. This is undesirable, and unlikely, because the report from the Scottish chemist, Keith Powell, made clear that the fastest of the fast glues create the risk of cancer, brain damage and, with repeated inhalation, possibly death.

One of the troubles is the ITTF has said some of the less dangerous fast glues (medical grade but still assisting attacking players to hit faster) can be used. New Zealand's Peter Jackson appeared with a note to this effect, briefly causing confusion at the weekend event in Cleveland.

The bickering between the English and the Dutch on Tuesday was caused principally because the visitors were following a communication from the European body that gluing up was allowed provided it occurred more than 24 hours before competition. The English were obeying a later communication that all fast glues are banned. This seems the most sensible.

Allowing some of these glues may encourage players to use dangerous glues illegally because of the greatly reduced risk of detection. It seems the only tactically fair and medically safe solution would be to ban fast glues by making a shortlist of safe ones and ensuring regular pre-match inspections.

## Call for charitable status for lottery

By JOHN GOODBODY

A PLEA was made yesterday for the national lottery to be established as a charity to ease the tax burden and free it from political manipulation. Dennis Vaughan, whose lobbying has been a big factor in persuading the government to bring in the lottery in 1994, said that the Bill, which is likely to have its second reading within the next month, did not provide for "making the lottery a charitable foundation".

Vaughan, executive director of the Lottery Promotion Company Ltd, said that the establishment of an independent foundation would make it clear that the lottery was run independently of the government and was not simply an extension of state funding.

"The Bill at present provides for proceeds to be paid

directly to the arts and sports councils, thereby confusing the distinction between private and public money," he said.

Vaughan added that charitable foundation status would increase the amount of lottery proceeds available for suitable causes, that otherwise would be diverted to the Treasury.

Vaughan received some support for his views from Will Carling, the captain of the England rugby team, who said that the lottery should be organised so that not too much of the money went to the Treasury or was used for administrative purposes.

The government is unlikely to accept these proposals. The Treasury is bound to insist that the turnover on the lottery must be subject to tax.

It is also likely to want the money for sport to be distributed directly by the UK Sports Commission and the four sports councils.

The future structure of British sport was thrown into confusion earlier this week when Peter Brooke, the heritage secretary, said that the UK Sports Commission, which is supposed to speak for British sport and the sports councils of the four home countries was not a hierarchical structure.

The four home countries will continue to have autonomy in policy.



Carling supportive

## RUGBY UNION

# England will be at full strength

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND last night put their injured players, Peter Winterbottom, Dewi Morris and the captain, Will Carling, through their paces at the Stoop Memorial Ground to ensure a clean bill of health for Saturday's opening five nations' championship match against France at Twickenham.

The squad, and the Rugby Football Union, were buoyed up, too, by a new sponsorship designed to benefit all England's representative teams at senior and youth level, and which will be used to promote the game to youngsters. Agreements have been signed by the Union and by the players' representatives with

Wander Foods' Isostar sports drink, worth £400,000 over three years to the RFU and an unspecified amount to the squad.

The deal was not concluded until Tuesday, but it gives the England players the chance to emphasise that their "Run with the Ball" campaign, launched in 1991, is still on track. The campaign did not produce the financial rewards for the players initially envisaged, but Carling said: "Once the costs involved in starting the campaign had been explained to the players I think they appreciated what the results would be."

"The initial campaign had a tremendous effect on the coun-

try generally, and in generating awareness of the game was an unqualified success. Its second objective was to generate money and there we learned lessons along the way."

The England squad has, however, renewed its contract with the Parallel Media Group, its commercial advisers, up to and including the 1995 World Cup.

As a result of last season's campaign, England players each received around £1,000. This season they hope to have more than the five official supporting companies attracted on the back of the World Cup and have committed themselves to supporting 60 children's rugby camps at the beginning of next season.

Robert du Preez, the South African scrum half, is to be prosecuted for not reporting for the year's military service that is compulsory for whites. The South African Defence Force confirmed that Du Preez, who plays for Natal, would face charges, as his application for the service, which is believed to be in its final year, to be deferred was turned down.

## FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Third round: Postponed: Bristol Rovers v Aston Villa, Luton v Bristol City.

FA TROPHY: First round: Postponed: Swindon v Bristol City.

AUTOGASS TROPHY: Second round: Postponed: Stoke v Barnet.

LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Postponed: Boreham Wood v Boreham Wood.

NEVILLE OVERTON COMBINATION: Postponed: Exeter v Southampton, Swindon v Exeter, Exeter v Exeter, Exeter v Exeter.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Postponed: West Bromwich v Bradford, Derby v Southport, Mansfield v Burnley, Port Vale v Notts County, Sunderland, Grimsby v Colchester, Wigan v Exeter.

LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Postponed: Partick Thistle v Dundee United, Rangers v Partick, Dundee United v Dundee United, Dundee United v Dundee United.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Postponed: Premier division: Dundee United v Dundee United, Dundee United v Dundee United, Dundee United v Dundee United.

VALDHAL FA TROPHY: First round: Postponed: Bromsgrove v Kidlington, Dagenham and Redbridge v York, Hastings & Dover v Southend, York v York, York v York, York v York.

HPS LEAGUE: Cup: Second round: Postponed: Warrington v Preston, Preston v Preston, Preston v Preston.

DAVIDSON LEAGUE: Second round: Postponed: Athletic v Haverhill, 2. Northern League Cup: Warrington v Sutton United, 2. Northern League Cup: Warrington v Sutton United.

BEAVER HONEY LEAGUE: Southern division: Bury Town v Southport, 2. Southern division: Bury Town v Southport, 2. Southern division: Bury Town v Southport.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Sheffield Wednesday v Wolverhampton, 2. Postponed: Blackpool v Leicester, 2. Postponed: Blackpool v Leicester.

LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Postponed: Partick Thistle v Dundee United, Rangers v Partick, Dundee United v Dundee United, Dundee United v Dundee United.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Postponed: Premier division: Dundee United v Dundee United, Dundee United v Dundee United, Dundee United v Dundee United.

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Boxing: MOUNT BYRNE BAY, Tuborg: International tournament: First round (all GB and Ireland): 70: M MacKenzie, 5: Bennett; 70: M MacKenzie, 5: Bennett; 70: M MacKenzie, 5: Bennett.

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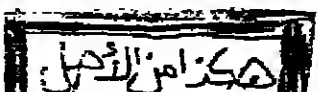
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# Tottenham ready to give Durie chance to leave

## Timina's home-hunting receives her best shot

## Indian board blocks switch to Delhi

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"We were told that it was not possible to arrange a match for Saturday," Bob Bennett, the England tour manager, said last night after England's nine-wicket defeat by the Indian Board President's XI here. The decision not to stage

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